

POEMS AND SONGS

Songs are another form of language. Children create their own language, it's a special power. We need to offer rich language especially in the first 6 formative years where the absorbent mind is at its peak. We can offer it in different forms. It is their birth right and a gift. Poems and songs rhyme and they are rhythmic.

HISTORY

Even before early humans could write, they used to sing, when they were happy, when they were working, it was a stress reliever and a source of entertainment and a form of expression. Music is an essential part of life, it's a need. It's not about the technicalities; it's just about the music. Listening to music and enjoying it is a spiritual need. It gives spiritual upliftment.

Mother's sing Lullaby's to their babies while putting them down to sleep, it comes naturally to mothers.

Songs are like an offering to children. By introducing them to songs we are allowing them to appreciate music. The absorbent mind takes in everything. Children are rooted to reality, we can relate to it as it is an expression of life, it is about the child's surrounding and culture. It's easy to transfer culture through songs.

Criteria for poems and songs that can be presented to children:

- a) It should reflect child's life
- b) It should be culturally appropriate
- c) It should be an expression of life.

Songs must be chosen carefully, children love to listen to song repeatedly, the familiarity gives them security and joy. Songs were the first source of entertainment in the olden days, only later print and publishing of songs and poems came into existence.

We want children to experience joy, after some years children grow out of joy. They don't have any inhibition; they are thirsty for words and hungry for language. Poems and songs also provide spiritual upliftment and growth.

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We can pass on the love of language to children. They are tools of joy. There is rhythm, there is action, there is rhyming etc. All these aspects make the poem appealing. We don't need to give an introduction or sometimes we can if necessary. It needs to be a reflection of the child's culture.

We must make sure that we don't mix up English rhyme tunes with folk songs.

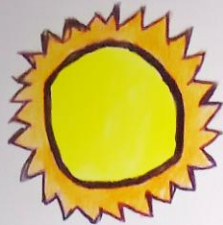
We need to pass on the richness of culture. Children sing joyfully and with a lot of happiness. Songs must be alive; it must have variety and must be sung often. There is no timetable or a specific time to sing songs or recite poems, if the child is interested they can sing. We just need to follow the interest of the child. The songs and poems must be short and sweet; there must be variety of songs, repetition. We must not have huge expectations from children. Songs and poems are not a way of teaching. It is just that we are passing on rich culture and language to children through this medium.

As adults we must have a good collection of poems and songs, we must be prepared with a good list of songs and poems. Children settle down in class easily through songs and poems, it calms them down, even a crying child stops crying when music is being played. It is true that music mesmerizes everyone.

Children initially recognize and understand poems and songs in audio medium. As days go by they learn to recognize written form and learn to read and write. We don't expect children to understand the poems and songs; they just need to enjoy it; Understanding and meaning come much later. We shouldn't assume that children won't understand complex words, it can be offered through songs and poems. There is no time table for interest, they can sing and read whenever they want.

Songs and poems are a casual way of introducing language. We must make sure that the songs are relatable to children and must be purposeful and there is no need for moral songs or poems. That can be introduced much later on in life.

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In Summer

by Hana Mahaney

Pour on Lotion
Rub it in.
Perfect for
My Summer skin.

On my bike
Or in the pool.
A dip of water
Keeps me cool.

Shades are on
Flip flops too.
In Summer there's
So much to do.

