

Wentín Tuyím Mi

You're Sleeping Well



This is Nisenan-language lullaby sung to the tune of ‘**Twinkle Twinkle Little Star**’. To listen to this song, visit <https://bit.ly/ssbmilullabies> or scan the QR code above. If you have questions, please contact Language@ssband.org.

Lyrics

Wentín tuyín, tuyím mi,
honkitín min tuyyudí.
Sitapayhaháas ni min
tuk’usán min, piyítí.
Wentín tuyín, tuyím mi,
honkitín min tuyyudí.

*Sleeping well, you are sleeping,
resting in your bed.
I will always protect you
because I love you, little one.
Sleeping well, you are sleeping,
resting in your bed.*

About the lyrics

You might wonder why we did not translate the actual lyrics of ‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star’ into Nisenan for this lullaby. This is because the direct translation would be very hard to sing to the original tune! Many of the relevant Nisenan words are much longer than their English equivalents. For example, ‘star’ (one syllable in English) is *pokec’ík* in Nisenan (three syllables). To make this lullaby pleasant and easy to sing, we composed new lyrics that fit the original tune.

Language for everyday life

There are many parts of this song that you can expand on and use in everyday life!

Notice that *tuy-* is said several times in this song (it is part of the words *tuyín*, *tuyím*, and *tuyyudí*). This is a Nisenan word root related to ‘sleep’. Here are some Nisenan words and phrases with this root.

Túyyu	‘Bed’	
Min túyyu	‘Your bed’	
Min tuyyudí	‘In your bed’	
Tuy!	‘Sleep!’	(You’re telling someone to go to sleep)

We can put these pieces together to say longer phrases in Nisenan:

Tuy min tuyyudí! ‘Sleep in your bed!’ (You’re telling someone to do this)

The word *wentín* works a lot like the word ‘well’ in English, and we can build it into our Nisenan phrases too.

Wentín tuy. ‘Sleep well.’ (You’re telling someone to sleep well)

You can use the word root *honkit-* ‘rest, take a break’ in a similar way:

Honkít!	‘Rest!’	(You’re telling someone to rest)
Wentín honkít.	‘Rest well.’	(You’re telling someone to rest well)

Finally, you may recognize the word root *sitapay-* ‘take care of, care for, protect’, which we use when saying goodbye in Nisenan:

Sitapáy’omís ‘Take care of yourself’ (used for ‘Goodbye’)

We can expand on this by saying:

Wentín sitapáy’omís ‘Take good care of yourself’ / ‘Care for yourself well’

For more resources for learning the Nisenan language, please visit the SSBMI Language Department website (<https://bit.ly/ssbmilanguage>) or email us at Language@ssband.org.