



# Songs, Laughter and the Written Word: How Children Learn to Read from Birth

## Let's Sing!

with Peter Stewart  
[www.peter-stewart.com](http://www.peter-stewart.com)

### Hello Everybody

(sung along with the harmonica)  
Hello everybody, how do you do?  
Hello everybody, how do you do?  
Hello everybody, how do you do?  
I'm so glad to see you!

### Hamburger Hot Dog

Hamburger hot dog huckleberry pie  
Ketchup and mustard, reach up to the sky  
Cocoanut, peppermint, chocolate cake  
Tasting and cooking and bake, bake, bake!

### Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river, peace like a river,  
peace like a river in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain, joy like a fountain,  
joy like a fountain in my soul

I've got love for my neighbor, love for my  
neighbor, love for my neighbor in my soul

### Jack-O-Lantern

Jack-o-lantern witches and skeletons  
Trick or treat on Halloween night  
Black cats with ghosts and goblins  
Boo! What a scary sight!

### Shake the Willies Out

Let us shake the willies out, willies out,  
willies out  
Let us shake the willies out  
before we go to snack!

### See Me in my False Face

See me in my false face, false face, false face  
See me in my false face  
Can you guess my name?

### Rabbits Have Shiny Noses

Oh, rabbits all have shiny noses  
I'm telling you this as a friend  
The reason they have shiny noses  
The powder puff's on the wrong end!

### Lollipop

L-0-double L-I-P-O-P spells lollipop  
That's the only decent kind of candy  
Guy who made it must have been a dandy  
L-0-double L-I-P-O-P you see  
It's a lick on a stick guaranteed to make you sick  
It's lollipop for me!

### Horse, Horse

Horse, Horse, don't you stop  
Just let your heels go clippety-clop  
And let your tail go swish and  
your wheels go round  
Giddeyap! We're homeward bound.

### MM-ah Went the Little Green Frog

MM-ah went the little green frog  
MM-ah went the little green frog one day  
And his eyes went MM-ah-oh!

### Flea, fly

Flea, Flea Fly, Flea Fly Flo Vista!  
Cummilady, Cummilady Cummila-Vista  
Oh, no no anchovy pizza  
Enimeeny, Eximeeny, oowahla-wahlimenny  
Eximeeny, wahlimeeny, ooh-wah, ooh-wah  
Beepbiddely-ohten-dohten,  
bobop, badittendahten



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### My Old Banjo

I love to play my old banjo  
It is so good to me  
But now my banjo's broken down  
And it's no good to me  
I took it to a banjo shop  
To see what they could do  
And now they fixed it up and it's as  
good as new!

### Engine # 9

Engine, Engine number 9  
Going down Chicago line  
If the train falls off the track  
Do you want your money back?  
Yes, no, maybe so.

### Charlie Over the Ocean

Charlie over the ocean  
Charlie over the sea  
Charlie caught a \_\_\_\_\_  
Can't catch me!

### The Pruney Song

No matter how hard a prune may try  
He's always getting wrinkled.  
Baby prune's just like his dad  
"Cept he's not wrinkled half so bad  
We have wrinkles on our face  
Prunie's got them everyplace  
No matter how hard a prune may try  
He's always getting stewed!

### Bar of Soap

Oh, I wish I were a little bar of soap  
Oh, I wish I were a little bar of soap  
I'd go slippery slippery slidey over  
everybody's hidey  
Oh, I wish I were a little bar of soap  
Oh, I wish I were a little radio  
Oh, I wish I were a little radio  
I'd turn off.

### Arabella Miller

Little Arabella Miller  
Had a fuzzy caterpillar  
First he crawled upon her mother  
Then upon her baby brother  
Little Arabella Miller  
Put away your caterpillar!

### Tarzan of the Apes

I like bananas coconuts and grapes  
I like bananas coconuts and grapes  
I like bananas coconuts and grapes  
That's why they call me Tarzan of the Apes!

### Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed  
One fell off and bumped his head  
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,  
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

### Sarasponda

Sarasponda sarasponda sarasponda  
ret set set  
Sarasponda sarasponda sarasponda  
ret set set  
A-dor-a-oh  
A-dor-a-boom-day-o  
A-dor-a-boom-day ret set set  
Ah-say Pah-say-o

### Cinderella

Cinderella, dressed in yellah  
Went upstairs to kiss a fellah  
By mistake she kissed a snake  
How many doctors did it take?



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### Alice

Alice, where are you going?  
Upstairs to take a bath  
Alice, with legs like toothpicks  
And a neck like a giraffe  
Alice stepped in the bathtub  
Pulled out the plug and then  
Oh my goodness!  
Bless my soul!  
There goes Alice down the hole!  
Alice, where are you going?  
Blub, Blub, Blub

### Bee, Bee, Bumble Bee

Bee, Bee, Bumble Bee  
Stung a man upon his knee  
Stung a pig upon his snout  
I declare that you are out!

### Polly Put the Kettle On

Polly put the kettle on, kettle on, kettle on  
Polly put the kettle on, Lets all have tea  
Suki took it off again, off again, off again  
Suki took it off again, All gone away

### Ram Sam Sam

A Ram Sam Sam-A Ram Sam Sam  
Gulli Gulli Gulli Gulli Gulli Ram Sam Sam  
Oh, Raffi, Oh Raffi  
Gulli Gulli Gulli Gulli Gulli Ram Sam Sam

### Seniorita

One day as I was walking, walking to the fair  
I spied a seniorita with a flower in her hair  
Oh shake it seniorita, shake it if you can  
Shake it like a milkshake and shake it once again  
She waddled to the bottom  
She waddled to the top  
She turned around and turned around  
Until it's time to stop

### Miss Mary Mack

Miss Mary Mack, Mack, Mack  
All dressed in black, black, black  
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons  
All down her back, back, back  
She asked her mother, mother, mother  
For fifteen cents, cents, cents  
To see the elephant, elephant, elephant  
Jump over the fence, fence, fence  
She jumped so high, high, high  
She reached the sky, sky, sky  
And never came back, back, back  
'Til the fourth of July

### The Moose Song

There was a great big moose  
He liked to drink a lot of juice  
There was a great big moose  
He liked to drink a lot of juice  
I said wo-oooh  
Way-o-way-o-way-o-way-o  
Wee-o, wee-o  
Way-o-way-o-way-o-way-o  
He drank his juice with care  
But he spilled some on his hair  
He drank his juice with care  
But he spilled some on his hair  
I said wo-oooh  
Way-o-way-o-way-o-way-o  
Wee-o, wee-o  
Way-o-way-o-way-o-way-o  
Now he's a sticky moose  
But he's a moose on the loose  
I said wo-oooh  
Way-o-way-o-way-o-way-o  
Wee-o, wee-o  
Way-o-way-o-way-o-way-o  
Oh yeah!



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### Yogi Bear

I know someone you don't know Yogi, Yogi  
I know someone you don't know  
Yogi, Yogi Bear  
Yogi has a little friend Boo-boo, Boo-boo  
Yogi has a little friend  
Boo-boo, Boo-boo bear  
Yogi has a girl friend Cindy, Cindy  
Yogi has a girl friend  
Cindy, Cindy bear

### We Hold the Future

#### The National Provider Anthem

We start out, what do we know?  
Start a family, begin to grow.  
Buy a house, get a car,  
And we think that's who we are.

But, then we feel we need to give.  
We feel we need to plant a seed.  
It's only then we start to live.  
It's only then we fill our need.

For every child is a little flower,  
This I know.  
That every minute of every hour,  
We help them grow.

Every hug, every smile,  
We help the children walk every mile.  
It's in our homes where they learn to walk.  
It's in our kitchens where they learn to talk.

Everywhere across this land,  
And every tear we wipe away,  
We hold the future in our hands  
By holding children of today.

Here and now  
Near and far  
We hold the future  
That's who we are.

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## Resources

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*Literacy Instruction in Multicultural Settings.* Au, Kathryn H. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers. Fort Worth, TX: 1993.

*Literacy Laurels: A Reader's Guide to Award Winning Children's Books.* Carlson, Laura, Sean Creighton and Shelia Cunningham, eds. Hillyard. New York, NY: 1996.

*Literacy Through Play.* Owocki, Gretchen. Heineman. Portsmouth, NH: 1999.

*The Living Classroom: Writing, Reading, and Beyond.* Armington, David. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Washington, DC: 1997.

*Make Way for Literacy! Teaching the Way Young Children Learn.* Owocki, Gretchen. Heinemann. Portsmouth, NH: 2001.

*Much More Than the ABCs: The Early Stages of Reading and Writing.* Shickendanz, Judith A. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Washington DC: 1984.

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*Ready, Set, Read and Write: 60 Playful Activities for You and Your Child to Share.* Barron, Marlene with Karen Romano Young. John Wiley and Sons. New York, NY: 1995.

*Scribble Scrabble—Learning to Read and Write: Success with Diverse Teachers, Children, and Families.* Meier, Daniel R. Teacher's College Press. New York, NY: 2000.



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*Starting Out Right: A Guide to Promoting Children's Reading Success.* Burns, M. Susan, Peg Griffin, and Catherine E. Snow, Editors. Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children, National Research Council. National Academies Press, Washington, DC: 1999.

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*Story S-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-r-s for Infants, Toddlers and Twos: Experiences, Activities, and Games for Popular Children's Books.* Raines, Shirley, Karen Miller and Leah Curry-Rood. Gryphon House. Beltsville, MD: 1990.

*Telling a Different Story: Teaching and Literacy in an Urban Preschool.* Wilson, Catherine. Teacher's College Press. New York, NY: 2000.

*Young Children and Picture Books: Literacy from Infancy to Six.* Jalongo, Mary Renck. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Washington, DC: 1988.

## Organizations and Internet Resources

### American Library Association

<http://www.ala.org>

### Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA)

University of Michigan School of Education  
Rm. 2002 SEB  
610 E. University Ave.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1259  
Phone: (734) 647-6940  
[www.ciera.org](http://www.ciera.org)

### International Reading Association

800 Barksdale Rd.  
PO Box 8139  
Newark, DE 19714-8139  
(302) 731-1600  
[www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

### The Internet Public Library Youth Division

Lots of fun and educational stuff for children to see and do  
<http://www.ipl.org/youth/>

### KidSource Online

[www.kidsource.com](http://www.kidsource.com)

### National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

1509 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
1-800-424-2460  
[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

### National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Includes information on reading initiatives in this branch of the federal government.  
[http://www.nih.gov/nichd/html/about\\_nichd.html](http://www.nih.gov/nichd/html/about_nichd.html)

### National Institute for Literacy

1775 I Street, NW; Suite 730  
Washington, DC 20006-2401  
(202) 233-2025  
[www.nifl.gov](http://www.nifl.gov)

### The National Parent Information Network (NPIN)

ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Children's Research Center  
51 Gerty Drive Champaign, IL 61820-7469  
(800) 583-4135  
[www.npin.org](http://www.npin.org)



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**New York State Education Department**  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12234  
[www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov)

**The New York State Office of Children and  
Family Services (OCFS)**  
[www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us)

**New York State Reading Association**  
99 Pine Street  
Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 434-4748  
[www.nysreading.org](http://www.nysreading.org)

**Parenthood.com**  
[www.parenthoodweb.com](http://www.parenthoodweb.com)

**Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF)**  
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20009  
(877) RIF-READ  
[www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)

**The SUNY Training Strategies Group**  
[www.tsg.suny.edu](http://www.tsg.suny.edu)

**Teaching Our Youngest: A Guide for Preschool  
Teachers and Child Care and Family Providers**  
Prepared by the Early Childhood-Head Start  
Task Force  
U.S. Department of Education  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
[http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/early/  
teachingouryoungest/teachingouryoungest.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/early/teachingouryoungest/teachingouryoungest.pdf)

**ZERO TO THREE:  
National Center for Infants, Toddlers and  
Families**  
2000 M Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 638-1144  
[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)

## **Safety First Resources**

**For the Latest Recall Information:**  
[www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov)

**Office of Information and Public Affairs**  
US Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, DC 20207  
1-800-638-2772  
[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration**  
5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20857-0001  
1-888-INFO-FDA (1-888-463-6332)  
[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

**Orbelle Trade Inc.**  
(800) 605-8018  
[www.orbelle.com](http://www.orbelle.com)