



## ★ Free baby, story and rhyme time sessions

Your local library offers free sessions for children 0-5 and their parents and caregivers. Come along and sing, dance and share stories with other families. You can also get a free library card and borrow books to share at home!

For session times, get in touch with your local library.

## Did you know?

In their first years of life your child's brain forms over one million connections every second.

Simple, everyday activities with you help to make these connections strong.

## Ready to learn!

Babies are born ready to learn and you are their first and most important teacher.

Talk, read, sing and play together right from birth to help their brains grow and build their connection with you.



## Free tips and ideas

Visit our website for lots of free and fun activities to try at home.

[slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever](http://slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever)

citylibraries



An initiative of



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# first5forever

talk  
sing  
play  
read

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Free activities, tips and ideas for children 0-5



# talk

**Lots of talking in the early years builds your child's language and communication skills - important skills they'll keep for life.**

- ★ Start early - from birth. Your baby may be too young to use words, but they'll learn from you if you respond to their sounds and actions with lots of talking. Respond to their sounds and actions and always add some words.
- ★ Talk about what you do, what you see around you, and what interests your child.
- ★ Talk about the books, stories and songs you share.
- ★ Talk about street signs, posters or labels when out and about or shopping.



# read

**It's never too early to share books.**

- ★ Books don't need to be read word-for-word and start to finish. Things like talking about the pictures, guessing what will happen next and making up your own endings help children learn and be more involved.
- ★ Keep books down low where children can grab them and pack a few for outings. They are great to pull out when you're waiting for appointments, your bus or a coffee.
- ★ Repeat favourites again and again.
- ★ Join a free story time session at your local public library. Get a library card for your child and borrow regularly.



# play

**Playing with your child is a fun way to develop important skills and knowledge.**

- ★ You don't need the latest toys or educational apps, your child just needs you.
- ★ Use chalk or a paintbrush and water to scribble, draw and write on the path or fence. Paper and crayons are great too.
- ★ Make cubbies and forts with cardboard boxes, sheets, pillows and blankets.
- ★ Explore the outdoors by playing outside and talking about what you see.
- ★ At the park, swing from in front so your child can see you and you can talk together.



# sing

**Babies and children love music, singing and rhymes.**

- ★ Sing throughout the day, at bath time, at bedtime or to calm your child.
- ★ Make up songs about things you do during the day.
- ★ Sing or play music in the car and encourage your child to sing along with you.
- ★ Join a rhyme time session at your local public library.
- ★ Don't worry if you think you can't sing! Your child loves to hear your voice.



## Twinkle, Twinkle

Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are.  
Up above the world so high  
Like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are.

