

## EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING cont.

- Sing often with the children in large and small groups both inside and outside. To add variety, consider using an instrument or recorded music.
- Read and sing along with books that have words to songs, such as *The Wheels on the Bus* and *Mary had a Little Lamb*, to help children acquire beginning literacy skills.
- Talk to children about how different types of music make them feel and what they like about music (slow lullaby, fast upbeat, etc.).
- Encourage children to sing along and to play instruments in *rhythm* with music. Talk with the children about varying the tempo from fast to slow and the dynamics from loud to soft. Vary the tempo and dynamics while singing and playing music.
- Add movement activities to *curriculum* themes or projects (in a project on fish, children can move like fish). Encourage children to move and use their bodies in space (pretending to be a cat, a volcano, or a butterfly). Assist children with modeling movement positions as needed.



- Repeat familiar songs often so children can sing them by heart.
- Make homemade musical instruments such as oatmeal box drums.
- *Model* enjoyment of music and express feelings while listening to, singing, or playing music.
- Encourage children to listen carefully to music and move according to the beat and feeling of the music.
- Sing songs or play music that encourages movement, such as *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* and *The Hokey Pokey*.
- Invite family and community members in to teach simple dances from various *cultures*.
- Take trips to local plays, puppet shows and other performances that are geared toward young children.
- Invite family members, authors, artists, musicians, and storytellers from different cultural and language backgrounds to visit so children can *observe* firsthand the creative work of *diversity* of people in the arts.
- Play with children in the *dramatic play* area by taking on a *role*, making suggestions, or demonstrating how to use new *props* or materials.
- Use role-playing during large and small group times to help children express their feelings, discuss conflicts, or solve problems. For example, an adult could act out the role of a child who feels left out, and then ask the children for suggestions about how to solve the problem.
- Provide time and materials to support children in re-creating experiences and new understandings (materials to create a farm stand in the dramatic play area after taking a trip to a pumpkin patch).