



Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen

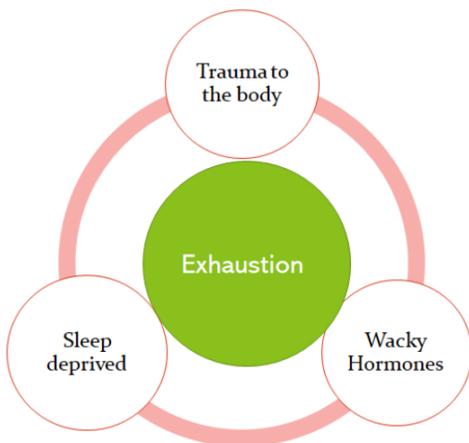
Baby time in the library—a history

Programming for babies & their parents / caregivers in the public library is a relatively new phenomenon. Twenty years ago, many librarians were refusing to offer programs for children under age two.

The proliferation of research showing that the first five years are essential for the formation of the architecture of the brain, research indicating that reading aloud to children positively influences their literacy development, and research showing the importance of nurturing parent-child relationships in the earliest years led to the slow adoption of programming for parents and infants as well as the Every Child Ready to Read platform.

Know your audience

Parents - Physical : Trauma to the body + wacky hormones + sleep deprivation = exhaustion.



How can you help?

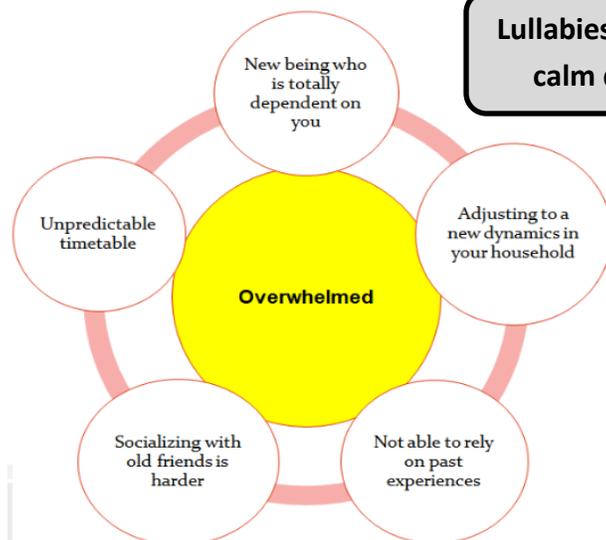
- Smile and always give a warm welcome.
- Make it easy for parents to attend your program.
- Give developmental tips to help with parenting, and activities to share with their babies.
- Feel free to change traditional lyrics.
- Encourage parents to sing to their infants
- Use lullabies



How to introduce lullabies to the parents in your programs:

- Hold your baby close so he or she can hear your heartbeat.
- Rock gently from side to side to imitate the movements your baby felt while inside the womb.
- Sing slowly and softly.

Parents—Emotional: Total responsibility for the survival of a new infant = new dynamics in the home + isolation from friends + feelings of insecurity + an unpredictable timetable = feeling overwhelmed.



Lullabies help parents calm down, too!

Any song can be a lullaby!

Encourage parents to pass down

- Traditional songs
- Intergenerational songs
- Songs from your own culture
- Songs in your own language
- Popular songs in the US sung slowly and softly.

Use a development tip

Singing lullabies when babies are held close to your heart and you are gently rocking back and forth reminds babies of when they were in the womb. This is very comforting and often helps them to calm down. So, next time your child is having a difficult time, try singing a lullaby.



Know your audience

Infants - Physical

- Not in control of their movements
- Not in control of bodily functions
- Colic!! Use the colicky baby hold!
- Eye tracking / head moving
- Wiggling fingers / grasping
- Rolling, crawling
- Banging, bouncing, dropping

Infants - Emotional

- Feeling secure
- Knowing that someone is listening and responding to them leads to: "healthy brain development and overall physical and psychological health and well being" (Bronfenbrenner & Morris, 2006; Shore 2003).
- Rolling, crawling
- Banging, bouncing, dropping

Model a non-judgmental, nurturing environment

Appropriate activities & benefits

- Musical Instruments
- Lullabies
- Body rhymes
- Knee bounces
- Dances
- Using books
- Tickle rhymes
- Puppets
- Using the flannel board
- Using colored scarves

Puppets

- Attract attention
- Kids love puppet kisses
- They inspire conversation
- Help shy children open up

Using books with babies

- Reading
- Singing
- Exploring
- Pointing
- Asking questions and listening



Offer playtime after your program

- Put out some educational toys
- Try to encourage parents to talk together by asking the generic question, "What new thing has your baby done this week?"
- Model playing with the babies
- Sing "Toys Away" when it is time to clean up. All the parents will help and it will be done quickly.
- If you are doing back-to-back programs, have a 30 minute play time in between the programs.

Resources Mentioned in the Presentation

Bronfenbrenner, U, Morris P. "The Bioecological Model of Human Development. Chapter 14 in Learner, R (Ed) Hand book of Child Psychology, Volume 1 Theoretical Models of Human Development." 2006.

Davis RW. *Toddle on Over: Developing Infant & Toddler Literature Programs.* Alleyside Press, 1998.

Diamant-Cohen B. "Mother Goose on the Loose: Applying Brain Research to Early Childhood Programs in the Public Library." *Public Libraries* 43:1 (2004): 41-45.

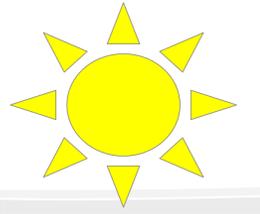
Shore, R. *Rethinking the Brain: New Insights into Early Development.* Families and Work Institute, 2003.



Songs and Rhymes

Give parents tips about making their own musical instruments at home and sing this song with them.

I had a little shaker,
I'll shake it in the air.
I'll shake it over here.
I'll shake it over there.
It can be a carousel.
Going round and round.
It can be a shooting star,
falling to the ground.
I had a little shaker,
I'll shake it in the air.
I'll shake it over here.
I'll shake it over there.



You are my sunshine. My dearest sunshine.
You make me happy, when skies are grey.
You'll always know, dear,
How much I love you.
And I'll hug you every day

<https://bit.ly/38xRT6X>

Betsy's lullaby while dancing with her son:

He flies through the air with the greatest of ease,
That daring young baby on the flying trapeze.
His actions are graceful; in his diaper he pees,
And my love he has stolen away.

<https://bit.ly/2KKP5vb>

**Instead of "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond,
try "Sweet Babe of Mine" by Laurie Collins**

Sweet babe of mine,
Napttime never seemed so good
I'd be inclined to take one with you if I could
Cause now I know...

Rum pum pum, this is my drum.

Hit a drum to the beat.

Rum pum pum, this is my drum.

My name is [Betsy]. What's your name?

Tap your name with syllables on the drum. Then take the drum around the circle and let each child tap out his or her own name with syllables.

—Barbara Cass-Beggs

<https://bit.ly/2K06K5a>

Fingers like to wiggle waggle, wiggle waggle, wiggle waggle.

Wiggle fingers of both hands in front of you.

Fingers like to wiggle waggle way up high!

Continue wiggling fingers as you raise hands. Say "up high" in a very high voice.

Fingers like to wiggle waggle, wiggle waggle, wiggle waggle.

Wiggle fingers of both hands in front of you.

Fingers like to wiggle waggle way down low!

Continue wiggling as you move your hands down to the floor.

Fingers like to wiggle waggle, wiggle waggle, wiggle waggle.

Wiggle fingers of both hands in front of you.

<https://bit.ly/3rhJLQG>

1, 2, 3, baby is on my knee.

Rooster crows and up she goes.

1, 2, 3, baby is on my knee.

Rooster crows and over she goes.

<https://bit.ly/2M6Nhrx>

Round and round the garden

Goes the teddy bear,

One step, two steps,

Tickle him under there.

'Round about, 'round about

Goes the wee mouse,

Up a step, up a step,

All around the house.

<https://bit.ly/2WEAyEb>

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Good morning, Mrs. Perky Bird,
Perky Bird, Perky Bird,
Good morning, Mrs. Perky Bird,
Where are you?

I'm flying in the air, the air,
The air, the air, the air, the air.
I'm flying in the air, the air,
And down to the ground.

<https://bit.ly/2LUZtkw>

Check out MGOL's YouTube
video Playlists at:

<https://bit.ly/3cCsrGZ>

Clickable Links to Songs & Rhymes That Can Be Used in Virtual Programs, Recommended By



Mother Goose On The Loose



MOVEMENT SONGS

["We're Marching to the Drum"](#) - parents are encouraged to march around the room with their children to piano accompaniment

["And We Hop And We Stop"](#)

["Bananas Unite!"](#)

SINGING SONGS TO WITH PROPS

["A Potato Sat On the Railroad Track"](#)

["1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive"](#)

["Two Little Froggies Playing in the Snow"](#)

["Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater"](#)

USING PICTURES AND POSTERS

["The Funky, Spunky, Monkey"](#) - pictures

["This Little Fishy"](#) - folder stories

["Red Crane"](#) - binder song

MATH-RELATED RHYMES

["Birds in the Birdcage"](#)

["Draw a Square in the Air"](#)

["Three Little Muffins in the Bakery Shop"](#)

["Three Little Seashells"](#)

["Five Fat Peas"](#)

USING BELLS

["Do You Know the Ice-Cream Man?"](#)

["Ride a Horse to Banbury Cross"](#)

["Jack in the Box"](#)

["There's a Bell on a Head"](#)

["Ring Your Bells"](#)

["Are You Sleeping, Brother John?"](#)

www.mgol.net

STANDING UP RHYMES

["All the Leaves are Falling Down"](#)

["Handy Spandy"](#)

CLAPPING

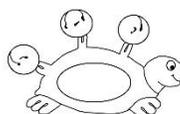
["Behind the Tree"](#)

["Pizza, Pizza Hot"](#)



SCARF ACTIVITY FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS

["Fireworks"](#)



SONGS & RHYMES IN ASL

["Caterpillar, Caterpillar"](#)

["Hello Babies/Friends"](#)

["Bathtime"](#)

["Roll the Ball Song"](#)

MUSICAL FINGERPLAYS & SONGS

["Little Ducky Duddle"](#)

["Inchworm, Inchworm"](#)

["Days of the Week"](#)

["Open Them, Shut Them"](#)

["Baby Put Your Pants On"](#)

FINGERPLAYS

["A Bumblebee Was in the Barn"](#)

["Here is Little Baby"](#)

["Two Little Dickey Birds"](#)

["Two Superheroes Sitting on a Bench"](#)

["On My Face I Have a Nose"](#)

USING RHYTHM STICKS

["Pease Porridge Hot"](#)

["The Wheels on the Bus"](#)

["Tick Tock, Tick Tock, Where is Cuckoo Bird?"](#)

["Grandfather Clock"](#)

SONGS AND RHYMES IN SPANISH

["Estamos contentos"](#)

["Un elefante"](#) or ["Un elefante"](#)

["Big C Little C"](#) (In Spanish)

["Viento, Ay Viento"](#)

Un elefante
parachute fun

For more songs, rhyme activities, and fingerplays, subscribe to the Mother Goose on the Loose YouTube Channel. There are multiple playlists on even more topics!

www.youtube.com/c/mothergooseontheloose/playlists

Clickable Links to Songs & Rhymes that can be used in Virtual Programs Recommended by



SINGING SONGS TO ILLUSTRATIONS

["I Went To Visit the Jungle One Day"](#)
[Non-fiction books about bears](#)
["Grand Old Duke of York"](#)

USING SHAKERS

["I Have a Little Shaker"](#) with hints about making your own
["We Shake and We Shake and We Stop"](#)
["We Shake Our Maracas Together"](#)
["Popcorn"](#) ["One Little, Two Little, Three Little Piggies"](#)
["Brown Bear"](#) ["Shake You Shakers, Baby"](#)



USING PUPPETS & STUFFED ANIMALS

["I Have Little Turtle"](#)
["Ladybug, Ladybug"](#)
[Criss Cross Applesauce"](#)
["I'm Bringing Home a Baby Puppy Dog"](#)
["Walking Through the Forest"](#)
["When the Horse Gets Up in the Morning"](#)

WHOLE BODY RHYMES

["Tall Trees"](#)
["I Dropped My Frog"](#)
using bean bags
["Grey Squirrel"](#)
["A Bee is On My Toe"](#)

USING FELT PIECES

["Little Mouse, Little Mouse"](#)
["Little Boy Blue"](#)
["Old Mother Goose"](#)
["Three Jellyfish"](#)
["Humpty Dumpty"](#)

USING DRUMS and TAMBOURINES

["We Play Our Song Together"](#)
["Tambourine, Tambourine"](#)
["Syllables Activity"](#)
["Rum Pum Pum"](#)
["And We Walk"](#)



[Drum
Songs for
Virtual
Programs](#)

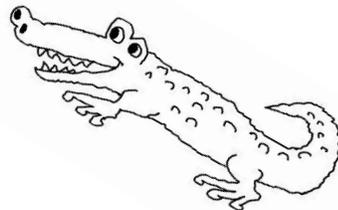
Fun for 3-5 year olds
["Alligator, Alligator"](#)

KNEE BOUNCES

["Here We Go Bumpy Boo"](#)
["Walk Old Joe"](#)
["Mother and Father and Uncle John"](#)
["Baby Baby Dumpling"](#)
["A Hippopotamus Got On a City Bus"](#)
["Tiny Little Babies Love Bouncing"](#)

LULLABIES

["Dream a Little Dream of Me"](#)
["Sweet Babe of Mine"](#)
["All the Pretty Little Horses"](#)
["Yo Te Amo"](#)
["My Little Baby is Going to Sleep"](#)
["Two Little Goslings"](#)
["This Little Light of Mine"](#)



SCARF RHYMES

["Rain on the Grass"](#)
["Wave Your Scarves Up and Down"](#)
["Green Means Go"](#)
["1,2,3,4,5, I Caught a Fish Alive"](#)
["Come Under My Umbrella"](#)
["Peek-a-Boo"](#)

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