



**BOOK TITLE:** **My First Songs**  
**AUTHOR:** Tomie dePaola



**SUMMARY OF BOOK:** This brightly-colored board book contains ten popular nursery rhymes with familiar tunes and motions.

**\*BEFORE READING** (Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion, assisting the child in understanding and enjoying the book):

Try questions such as these:

1. Look at the cover together, looking at each child: "What is she/he doing?" Point out that arms are raised, eyes are

closed, etc.

2. Let your child explore the book, opening and shutting it, holding it, turning the pages.

---

**DURING READING** (ask these questions):

1. The important thing here is to have your child experience the rhymes, the "music" of the rhymes. Sing the pages.
2. Add the motions: snoring; wiggling, "running" fingers; pat-a-cake; sticking a feather in his cap, etc.
3. Try going round the Mulberry Bush, ring around the Rosie, all falling down while

singing.

4. Talk about the pictures: "Who's going round the Mulberry Bush?" "Where's the little dog?" "Why is the farmer's wife running?" Help your child see that reading is like having a conversation with the book.

---

**AFTER READING** (activity to extend book experience):

1. When it's raining, sing those nursery rhymes. When you're putting on your shoes, do 1-2. Find opportunities to repeat the rhymes.
2. If your child seemed to prefer one of

the rhymes over the others, go back and spend extra time on it.

3. If you know other rhymes, add them to the repertoire. All this singing and rhyming is great for your baby to hear.

Compliments of:



\* This activity created by students at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

For additional activities, visit [www.AlaskamaginationLibrary.org](http://www.AlaskamaginationLibrary.org).

