

# The Songs We Sing

## Introduction

Many teachers have a circle time when children come together for a learning experience. This time is often made up of routines from singing songs to storytelling to calendar activities. The song stack is designed to facilitate a connection to print with words from songs visible to all children. Bright colors in the text, sound, and animation help children connect words to the text shown on the monitor. This stack can be used year after year and is often designed by the teacher, with each year's group of children adding their own personal touches. This stack was designed for a classroom using a computer with a video-out connection and a large television monitor. The stack then becomes visible to the whole class during circle time activities.

## Materials

- Computer
- *HyperStudio*
- Microphone
- Optional:  
Choose one or more of the following:
  - Video camera and video-in card
  - QuickCam
- Computer with video out connection (optional)
- Television monitor (optional)

## Ahead of Time

- Open a **New Stack** in *HyperStudio*.
- Design a title card by placing titles of songs and rhymes children will use throughout the year. This may include a song for the days of the week, a weather song, or the alphabet song. Leave room to add songs that will be used later in the year.
- Type the words for the song on a separate card. (This may take more than one card for each song.) Use a large, readable font.
- Connect each song card back to the title card.
- Add an invisible button on the title card. Place it over the name of a song to connect to the card where the song is displayed.
- Repeat this process until all song titles are connected to the appropriate song card.
- Personalize the *HyperStudio* stack by asking children to add sound for song titles and singing the songs.
- Create animation to illustrate the words.

## Introductory Activity

Introduce the stack by connecting it to the individual experiences of the classroom and the activities that are taking place. Each class will have different songs and reasons that

make the rhymes and songs found in this stack important.

### Computer Activity

This stack is designed to be used with a group of children as they go through the routine of their daily circle time activity. Personalized touches (e.g., sound, drawings, and animation) can be added to the stack during computer time.

### Extended Activity

- Share a hard copy of this stack with parents. The stack may help families see how the computer is used as well as offer insight into what their children are doing at school.
- Show the stack during Open House when families are learning about classroom activities. Routine activities are important for both the child and families as they learn about the songs and rhymes that take place everyday in the classroom.
- Add video clips to the stack of children singing, illustrating, or acting out the rhymes and songs.

### Summary

Routine activities, such as sitting on the carpet and singing songs or repeating rhymes, take place every day in many classrooms. Add personalized and visual touches by authoring and introducing a “The Songs We Sing” *HyperStudio* stack to the classroom.