

# Sing Aloud: Singing and Rhyming Together

## Check It Out

### *Earthshake: Poems from the Ground Up*

by Lisa Westberg Peters  
(Grades 2–3)

Peters shares 22 poems describing geology. From volcanoes to quartz, readers are introduced to a variety of geological discoveries through imaginative and playful poetry.

### *If Not for the Cat*

by Jack Prelutsky  
(Grades 2–3)

In delightful haiku, Prelutsky explores the wonders of the animal kingdom with vivid vocabulary and verse.

### *insectlopedia*

by Douglas Florian  
(Grades 2–3)

Can poetry help us understand these creepy crawly creatures? Perhaps, and you will have a good time hearing about them.

### *Science Verse*

by Jon Scieszka  
(Grades 2–3)

Poetry and science collide to make some fun and unlikely rhymes about amoebas, combustion, metamorphosis, viruses, and more.

### *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Trout*

by Teri Sloat  
(Grades K–3)

The popular song gets a fishy twist when it is set on the coast of the Pacific Northwest.

### *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*

by Lloyd Moss  
(Grades 1–2)

A whimsical orchestra on stage demonstrates the individuality of each instrument and the magic of performing together.

## Activities

- Is there a song that you used to sing to your children when they were babies? Sing those old cherished songs again to remind each other of the past.
- Find the lyrics to favorite songs you can sing together. Print them out and then pretend you are singing in front of an audience.
- Poetry is an excellent way for children to practice expressing themselves in writing. Help your children to enjoy poetry by taking a familiar poem such as “Roses are red, Violets are blue...,” and letting them replace the familiar words with their own choices.
- Help your children expand their vocabularies. Challenge them to come up with new descriptive words for familiar ones. For instance, ask them to think of other words for beautiful, such as gorgeous, pretty, or attractive.

## Table Talk

Help your children make up rhymes about the food they eat. It may help them enjoy some of those less desirable items. For instance, try “One by one, I swallow my peas. Cory is faster. He eats them in threes.”

## Family Field Trip

Find out from your community center, church, or library about local concerts. Many are free, especially in the summer and around holidays. Take the family along for a shared musical treat.