



[inclusionmatters.org](http://inclusionmatters.org)

# Music Play



**Chanting:** Encourage children to copy the movements as you sing. For children with limited movement, have them point to laminated body part images as you sing. When finished, practice pointing to and chanting the various body parts to aid memory.

**Signing with Visuals:** Mixing a song or piece of music with an image will create a strong sensory experience for children. For example: singing the song “Old MacDonald” and displaying images of the farm animals that are mentioned. While they’re singing along, encourage children to point out the animal they hear and to make the sound of each animal. This is a particularly good activity for children with limited language skills, because it will help them to feel included.

**Personalized Songs:** One way of promoting inclusion is to create personalized songs for each child. Lyrics can be based on information unique to that child, such as his name, personality traits and things he enjoys doing. If he’s able, allow the child to contribute to the lyrics and sing with you.

**Bring Out The Instruments:** Strumming a guitar or playing the tambourine while singing will promote children’s enjoyment and motor skills. Practice also playing “piano” or softly as part of your music circle.

**Musical Theater:** Instead of playing the music, have children act out the music through large and small body movements. Pretend to drum or play the violin. Try playing the real instrument, then ask the children to show you what that sound looks like.

