



## Singing Helps Kids Get Ready to Read, Ready for School

By Bill Breitsprecher

Want to get kids excited about books? Sing with them before you read to them! I read a lot of books to young children - Kindergartners, first-graders, and second graders. I believe that as an elementary school librarian/media center director, we must make the time we share in our library special - it's a celebration. We share a love of books, a love of reading, a love of language.

I know we are doing something right when young children, pre-readers, are excited about finding and checking out fun books. They skip through the library (please, no running feet!) and it is an adventure. They point to titles and excitedly ask, "What does this say?!?!?!?"

We have a wonderful collection of books -- bright, colorful picture books and great nonfiction/informational books with eye-appealing illustrations. I want our library media center to be a joyful place - I don't believe in telling kids to "shhhhhhhhhhhhh" when we are having fun in the library and there is no one that we are disturbing.

It is our special place and our special time together. I hope we nurture this love of books - just watch an early elementary school student when they find a book they love, a book they want to share, a book they want to learn to read.

I wrote a reading song last summer - something to express the joy of being read to, a celebration of fun books. The words are on the right. If you want to hear it (and see me teaching it to some bears), please take a look at my website, BreitLinks:

[www.breitlinks.com](http://www.breitlinks.com)

I played and sang it each day with the kids in school first-semester and made a video second-semester so I wouldn't have to bring my guitar every day. It gets cold and my instrument gets temperamental.

The kids still love it - can't possibly play it enough. In many ways - sharing this song is the single thing in my life that I am most proud of. These kids love books and love being read to. Music is a powerful way to get people's attention.

A great song stays with us all day. We want to share it. Singing helps kids get ready to read, ready for school. Songs, raps, rhymes, and poems are a fun way to play with sounds. It's a fun way to play with language. Songs naturally break words into smaller units - these become the building blocks of reading.

Do you love a child? Share something special. Sing together, play together, and read together. Please give a child a gift that lasts for life - the gift of reading.

# For the Young and Young at Heart



I love it when you read to me.  
Read to me, Read to me.  
I love it when you read to me.  
Please read to me some more.

Books can take you anywhere.  
Reading a book will take you there.  
Magical lands, fun people to see.  
Animals talking and living free.

I love it when you read to me.  
Read to me, Read to me.  
I love it when you read to me.  
Please read to me some more.

When I'm getting ready for bed.  
It's a perfect time to have a story read.  
It helps me get all ready to sleep.  
Have fun dreams for a sleep that's deep.

I love it when you read to me.  
Read to me, Read to me.  
I love it when you read to me.  
Please read to me some more.

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[www.breitlinks.com](http://www.breitlinks.com)



## Great Songs to Sing With Kids!

### Old Favorites

Amazing Grace  
Banana Boat Song  
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah Head  
Home On The Range  
Oh Where Has My Little Boy Gone  
POP! Goes The Weasel  
Red River Valley  
Row, Row, Row Your Boat  
Take Me Out To The Ballgame  
The Hokey Pokey  
This Land Is Your Land  
This Old Man  
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star  
You Are My Sunshine

### Repetitive Songs

Are You Sleeping  
Head, Shoulders, Knees And Toes  
Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush  
If You're Happy And You Know it  
London Bridge  
Old MacDonald Had A Farm  
She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain  
Skip To My Lou  
The Ants Go Marching  
The Bear Went Over the Mountain  
The Song That Never Ends  
The Wheels On The Bus  
This Little Light Of Mine  
This Old Man