

# Short and Sweet

## Primary Objectives

11a. Attends and engages

## Why It's Important

Children at this stage of development are learning to focus their attention for short periods of time. Involving your child in several short, engaging activities is better than trying to force him to remain focused on one activity for a long period of time.

## Materials

None

## What You Do

1. When reading books, telling stories, singing songs, and doing fingerplays, keep the experience short and interesting.
2. Select books with and stories with rhymes, chants, or simple repetitive language, and encourage your child to join in. Books with colorful illustrations, familiar objects, and pictures of people's faces may be especially interesting to him. Ask questions about the book that will draw your child's attention to the pages. *Do you see a sad baby on this page?*
3. Incorporate music and movement activities that involve simple fingerplays. You can also sing songs that allow you to substitute your child's name in the lyrics (for example, instead of singing *Where is Thumbkin?* you could sing *Where is [Calvin]?*)
4. Use simple instruments and movement activities such as stomping, clapping, or bobbing up and down to a rhythm. These activities can help to keep your child engaged for longer periods of time. *We are clapping slowly to the music.*
5. Pay attention to when your child's attention starts to wander from the activity. Follow his lead. For example, if he is no longer interested in the book and wants to look at another one, switch books.