

## Song Bags

### Description

Song bags are a fun activity for the whole family! Objects that represent a favorite song are kept together in a box or bag. The chosen object is held by your child during the song to connect a symbol (concrete object) with a meaning (abstract concept). This activity promotes development in many areas, especially communication (choice making, turn taking, labeling, requesting, following instructions), compensatory skills (listening, tactual search/discrimination), and early literacy skills (attaching meaning to symbols, sequencing).

### Recommendations

- 1) Involve your child in physically opening and closing the song bag, while you say “open” or “close.” This promotes independence, concept development (open/close), and fine motor skills. It also develops a consistent routine where your child can anticipate the beginning and end of the activity, which can help with transitioning to a new activity. You can also use the phrase “all done” after closing the bag together.
- 2) Encourage your child to explore the objects in the bag, especially when it is a new activity. This may involve touching, throwing, shaking, squeezing, poking, or even licking, smelling, or biting the object. This not only improves compensatory skills (using other sense to learn what cannot be seen) but also increases attention once the adult-led song activity begins.
- 3) Add, remove, or change objects in the bag to customize this activity and make it most meaningful for your child. For example, if your child has a shape sorter and knows the star from it well, please use that star instead of the foam one provided. If your child has a familiar rubber duck for bath time, try to incorporate that one into your bag. Familiar objects and songs are always the most impactful, so adapt this activity based on your child’s interests to make it even more fun!
- 4) You can make this activity easier or harder for your child as needed. Start by simply labeling the object and singing the song for whichever object your child picks out. Eventually, you can challenge them by requesting they choose a specific object when presented with 2 choices or more. Don’t forget to take your own turn and pick your favorite song/object every so often!

Song	Object
5 Little Ducks	Rubber Duck
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star	Foam Star
I’m a Little Teapot	Plastic Doll Tea Pot
Row, Row, Row Your Boat	Wood/Plastic Boat
Wheels on the Bus	Metal School Bus with Wheels
Old MacDonald	Oinking Pig
Itsy Bitsy Spider	Rubber/Furry Spider

For additional information/resources contact: Colleen Kickbush, TVI, [ckickbush@vision-forward.org](mailto:ckickbush@vision-forward.org)