



**PRAESA**

*Nurturing the growth of  
bilingual and multilingualism*



*The Project for the Study of  
Alternative Education in South Africa*

## Finding songs and rhymes

Do you remember the songs or rhymes you loved to sing or say as a child? Often the ones we really enjoyed, we still remember years later!

Songs and rhymes develop children's home language skills and are a natural way to introduce them to other languages. We can participate in songs and rhymes with children, by singing/saying the words and adding body movements and actions that fit these words. Enjoying songs and rhymes together in this way, builds a sense of trust and strengthens the bond between adults and children.

### Where to find songs and rhymes

- \* Teach children the songs and rhymes that you learnt as a child.
- \* Ask friends and family to share songs and rhymes they remember from their childhood with you.
- \* Use the tunes of songs everyone knows and make up your own words to go with them that reflect your children's experiences and/or language/s.
- \* Make up your own songs or rhymes based on the stories you read.
- \* Ask the children to teach you the songs and rhymes that they know, and also let them make up their own songs and rhymes.
- \* Find illustrated books of rhymes in bookshops or the library.
- \* Look for songs and rhymes on the internet. There are children's rhymes in different languages on the PRAESA ([www.praesa.org.za](http://www.praesa.org.za)) and Nal'ibali ([www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org)) websites.