Appendix 3

Songs, Chants & Rhymes

Words in Rhythm. Learning for Life.

This appendix includes original songs, chants, and rhymes that support the key skills and vocabulary in Spark. Music, rhythm, and repetition make learning fun, memorable, and meaningful for all learners. Use these songs throughout the day to build language, support transitions, and create a positive, engaging learning environment.

Build Language
Reinforce vocabulary, phrases, and sentence frames.

Support Routines
Use songs for greetings, transitions, clean-up, and more.

Engage All Learners
Music helps children participate, remember, and feel confident.

Create Joy
A cheerful classroom helps everyone learn!



Happy Voices. Brighter Learners.

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Learning Chants, Songs & Rhymes

Sing. Move. Learn. Grow!

SHORT STRIDES

Small Steps
Big Futures



The Power of Songs and Rhymes

Songs, chants, and rhymes are powerful tools for early learning. They make language memorable, build phonological awareness, support vocabulary development, and engage the whole child — body, mind, and heart.

Songs and rhymes help children:

- Remember new words and concepts
- Practice correct pronunciation and rhythm
- Develop listening and speaking skills
- Build confidence through repetition
- Connect language with movement and actions
- Experience the joy of learning together

How to Use This Appendix

- Use songs, chants, and rhymes regularly — at the beginning of class, during transitions, or as a review.
- Encourage children to sing and move together.
- Use the suggested actions to support understanding.
- Repeat favorites often — repetition builds mastery!
- Feel free to adapt, simplify, or add verses to fit your students and culture.
- Most songs in this appendix are original Short Strides compositions or traditional public domain material.

The goal is not performance — it's participation, practice, and progress. Have fun!

What's Inside

A carefully selected set of **songs, chants,** and rhymes to support key skills in Spark.

1. Alphabet Song (A–Z)
2. Count Along! (1–20)
3. Show Me! (Concepts & Opposites)
4. Colors and Shapes All Around
5. Where Is It? (Position & Direction)
6. Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes (Body Parts)
7. Sounds Build Words (Letter Sounds)
8. First, Then, Next! (Patterns & Sequence)
9. Talk With Me! (Everyday English)

Let's make learning an everyday song!

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Let's Sing, Move and Learn!

Chants, songs, and rhymes are powerful tools for early learning. They help children remember new words, concepts, and routines through rhythm, repetition, and movement. Music also builds confidence, creates a joyful classroom atmosphere, and brings children together.

The chants in this appendix support key learning goals in **Spark**. Each one is short, simple, and easy to teach. Use them during your daily routines, transitions, or whenever you want to add movement, review, or encouragement.

All chants and rhymes were created by Short Strides for **Spark** learners.

How to Use This Appendix

- Introduce a chant when the related skills are taught in the curriculum.
- Use actions and movements to help children learn and remember.
- Repeat chants often. Familiarity builds confidence!
- Invite children to join in, even if they only listen at first.
- Use the chants for review, transitions, or simply to bring joy to the day.



Start with a Smile

A Welcome Chant for Each Day

(Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or the ABC Song.)

Welcome, welcome, everyone,
I'm so glad that you have come.
We will have some fun today,
Learning, growing while we play.

You can clap and you can sing,
You can learn most anything.
Try your best to learn and grow,
And you'll love the things you know!

A happy start makes a brighter day!

What's Inside

Nine chants for growing learners!

1	Show Me!	Concepts & Opposites
2	Count With Me!	Numbers 1–20
3	Colors All Around!	Colors
4	Where Is It?	Position & Direction
5	The Alphabet Song	Letter Names & Alphabet Sequence
6	Alphabet Friends: Letter Sounds	Letter Sounds (A–Z)
7	Ready, Steady, Go!	Body Parts
8	Kind Words, Kind Hearts	Everyday Kindness & Helpful Language
9	All Together Now!	Review & Celebration

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1 Show Me!

A Concept Action Chant

Practices: big/small • short/tall • hot/cold
fast/slow • in/out • up/down

Show me big! Show me small!
(Stretch your arms wide; then make yourself tiny.)



Show me short! Show me tall!
(Bend down low; then stand tall and reach up high.)



Show me hot! Show me cold!
(Wipe your forehead; then hug your arms and shiver.)



Show me fast! Show me slow!
(Move quickly; then move in slow motion.)



Show me in! Show me out!
(Pull your hands in toward your body; then stretch them out.)



Show me up! Show me down!
(Reach your hands high; then touch the ground.)



Look at all the words we know —
Show them fast or show them slow!
(Do one of the actions quickly, then repeat it slowly.)



Teacher Tip: Use this chant to review key descriptive words. Say the words with the children, model the actions, and invite everyone to move together. Repeat regularly to help children remember and use the words with confidence.

2 Count With Me!

A Fun Counting Chant

Practices: number sequence 1–20 • one-to-one correspondence
listening • movement • memory • confidence

Count to 10

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 —
Count with me and come alive!
(March in place, one step for each number.)

6, 7, 8, 9, 10 —
Back it up and count again!
(Take small steps backward.)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 —
6, 7, 8, 9, 10!

We can count from one to ten —
Clap your hands and go again!
(Clap together.)



Ready for More? Count to 20

Now it's time to really shine —
Let's keep counting down the line!
(Point forward and begin marching.)

11, 12 — ring those bells!
(Pretend to ring bells with both hands.)

13, 14 — count with me!
(Point to yourself, then to the group.)

15, 16 — stomp your feet!
(Stomp twice.)

17, 18 — feel that beat!
(Pat your knees to the beat.)

19, 20 — finish strong!
(Throw both hands in the air.)

Twenty numbers — nicely done!
(Clap and cheer.)



Teacher Tip: Start with the 1–10 chant until children are comfortable. Then add the 11–20 section. Use actions, movement, and repetition to help children remember the number sequence. Celebrate their effort!

3 Colors All Around!

A Bright and Happy Chant

Practices: color words • listening • movement vocabulary • observation • expressive language

Red, red, apples sweet,
Red on berries, red on cheeks!



Yellow, yellow, warm and bright,
Yellow sun gives us light!



Blue, blue, look and see,
Blue in sky and blue in sea!



Green, green, leaves on trees,
Green grass waving in the breeze!



Purple, purple, grapes so sweet,
Purple flowers at our feet!



Brown, brown, dirt and ground,
Brown on tree trunks all around!





Colors, colors, everywhere —
Look around, they're here and there!

Teacher Tip: Use real objects or pictures to show each color. Say the chant together, do the actions, and invite children to find more things of each color around them.

4 Where Is It?

A Position & Place Chant

Practices: position words • direction • listening movement • vocabulary • observation

Here, here, right by me!
(Point to something near you.)



There, there, what do you see?
(Point to something farther away.)



In, in, look inside!
(Make a circle with your hands and peek inside.)



Out, out, stretch out wide!
(Stretch your arms out wide.)



Under, under, peek below!
(Crouch down and look under.)



Over, over, high it goes!
(Reach your hands high.)



Near, near, close to me!
(Hold your hands close to you.)



Far, far, what can you see?
(Look far away.)



Left, left, hop this way!
(Hop or step to the left.)



Right, right, the other way!
(Hop or step to the right.)



Here or there, near or far —
Now we know just where things are!



Teacher Tip: Say the chant together and do the actions. Use real objects, toys, or classroom items to practice the position words. Repeat often to help children remember and use these words in daily conversation.

Learning Chants, Songs & Rhymes

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5 The Alphabet Song

A–Z, Sing with Me!

Practices:
- letter names (A–Z)
- listening and speaking
- memory and sequence
- print awareness
- movement and engagement

A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P,
Q, R, S, T, U, V,
W, X, Y, and Z.
Now I know my ABCs,
Next time won't you sing with me?



Sing it
Learn it
Move it
You can do it!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		

Great job!

Ways to Use This Song

1 Sing It!
- Sing the song together.
- Encourage children to join in, even if they only sing a few letters at first.

2 Point and Sing!
- Point to each letter as you sing.
- Use a letter chart, flashcards, or the letters on this page.
- Help children connect the spoken letter name with the printed letter.

3 Stop and Find!
- Pause at different letters: "A, B, C, D — stop! Show me D!"
- Invite children to point, hold up a card, or find the letter in the room.
- Go slowly through L, M, N, O, P to help children hear each letter clearly.

Teacher Tip: This traditional alphabet song is in the **public domain**. Use a cheerful, steady rhythm. You can clap, point, or gently move to the beat. Repeat often — the more children hear and sing the song, the more confident they become with letter names and order.

Learning Chants, Songs & Rhymes

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6 Alphabet Friends: Letter Sounds

A–M Clap, Say, and Chant with Me!

Practices:
- letter sounds (A–M)
- listening and speaking
- phonological awareness
- memory and sequence
- movement and engagement

Clap the beat. Say the letter. Say the sound. Say the friend!

Let's go!

Aa



A says /ă/ –
like Allie Alligator!

Bb



B says /b/ –
like Bobo Baboon!

Cc



C says /k/ –
like Coco Cat!

Dd



D says /d/ –
like DeeDee Deer!

Ee



E says /ĕ/ –
like Ellie Elephant!

Ff



F says /f/ –
like Fifi Fox!

Gg



G says /g/ –
like Gary Goat!

Hh



H says /h/ –
like Hugo Hippo!

Ii



I says /ĭ/ –
like Ibby Impala!

Jj



J says /j/ –
like Jojo Jaguar!

Kk



K says /k/ –
like Kayla Koala!

Ll



L says /l/ –
like Leo Lion!

Mm



M says /m/ –
like Mila Monkey!

Teacher Tips:

- Say the chant together each day.
- Clap to the beat or tap a rhythm.
- Point to each letter and character as you say it.
- Use the Alphabet Friends to connect sounds with letter names.
- Go slowly and have fun!

Letters make sounds
and friends too –
A to M, we're on our way!



Great job!

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Alphabet Friends: Letter Sounds

N–Z Clap, Say, and Chant with Me!

Practices:
- letter sounds (N–Z)
- listening and speaking
- phonological awareness
- memory and sequence
- movement and engagement

Clap the beat. Say the letter. Say the sound. Say the friend!

You can do it!

Nn



N says /n/ –
like Nina Newt!

Oo



O says /ŏ/ –
like Oscar Otter!

Pp



P says /p/ –
like Pei Pei Panda!

Qq



Q says /kw/ –
like Quentin Quail!

Rr



R says /r/ –
like Rusty Red Panda!

Ss



S says /s/ –
like Slater Sloth!

Tt



T says /t/ –
like Tara Tiger!

Uu



U says /ŭ/ –
like Umbie Umbrella Bird!

Vv



V says /v/ –
like Vivi Vulture!

Ww



W says /w/ –
like Willy Wombat!

Xx



X says /ks/ –
like Lexi Lynx!

Yy



Y says /y/ –
like Yuri Yak!

Zz



Z says /z/ –
like Zena Zebra!

Keep It Fun!

- Say the chant together each day.
- Clap to the beat or tap a rhythm.
- Point to each letter and character as you say it.
- Use the Alphabet Friends to connect sounds with letter names.
- Repeat often — children learn more with practice!

Letters and sounds
from A to Z –
We can do it!
Hooray for me!



You Did It!

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7 Ready, Steady, Go!

A Body Parts Action Rhyme

Practices: body parts • listening • following directions gross motor skills • movement and coordination

Head, head, touch your head,
(Place your hands on your head.)
Eyes, eyes, open wide,
(Point to your eyes.)
Ears, ears, listen well,
(Cup your ears.)
Nose, nose, take a smell,
(Point to your nose.)

Mouth, mouth, say "hello,"
(Point to your mouth.)
Shoulders, shoulders, roll them slow!
(Roll your shoulders slowly.)
Arms, arms, reach to the sky,
(Stretch your arms up.)
Hands, hands, wave goodbye!
(Wave your hands.)

Knees, knees, bend down low,
(Bend your knees.)
Toes, toes, touch and go,
(Reach for your toes.)

Stand up tall and turn around,
(Stand up.)
Wiggle, wiggle, touch the ground!
(Move and wiggle your whole body!)

Our bodies help us play, learn, and do amazing things!

Let's take care of our bodies and use them well!



Teacher Tip: Use this rhyme as a warm-up, movement break, or transition. Go slowly at first, then faster as children become familiar. You can also use it to review body part vocabulary.

8 Kind Words, Kind Hearts

A Caring Classroom Chant

Practices: kindness • helpful phrases • empathy social interaction • positive classroom community

When I ask, what do I say?
(Hold out your hands as though asking.)
"Please" can help me on my way!
(Put your hands together, like a polite request.)

When you help, what do I do?
(Point to a helper or open your hands.)
Smile and say a big "Thank you!"
(Smile and place your hand over your heart.)

Need some help? I'll be there,
(Take a step toward a friend.)
Friends can help and friends can share!
(Pretend to share or give an item.)

When a friend is feeling sad,
(Make a gentle, caring face.)
"Can I help?" can make them glad!
(Place a hand on your heart.)

Kind words here, kind words there,
(Spread your arms wide.)
Kind words show that people care!
(Give a big smile and a thumbs up!)

Kind words make happy classrooms!

We can be kind, we can help, we can make a difference!

Kind friends brighter days!



Teacher Tip: Use this chant regularly to build a positive classroom community. Model the actions and encourage children to use these phrases in real situations throughout the day.