

Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer

Sing-Play for Infants & Toddlers: A sing-along experience in combining music, play and skills for the very young.

This presentation brings a new repertoire of easy songs to caregivers, teachers and parents of infants and toddlers. The songs are simple, repetitive, and created to bring joy to the relationship between a young child and a trusted adult. We think of them as " Little songs with lots of love for soothing, bonding, rocking, holding, strolling, playing with and loving a baby. These songs can grow and change with a child as they transition into a toddler."

What is "sing-play"? Singing is a type of play and play is the best way to support a child's development. We use the word "sing-play" to show the relationship of singing and playing with young children. The workshop includes information on how a baby or a toddler might respond to songs at different age groups such as 0-3 months, 6-12 months and 1-3 years. Singing to an upright baby is different than singing to one who's lying down.

What can you "sing-play" with a 6 month old that you couldn't do with your infant? Similarly, singing to a baby who is crawling all over exploring the room opens up new "sing-play" opportunities and so on. While teaching these easy songs, we will identify major physical, cognitive and linguistic milestones such as sitting, crawling, walking, babbling, responding to his/her name, first words, stringing words, object permanence and separation anxiety, and explain them and then give ideas as to how you might "sing-play" differently once those milestones are achieved.

The workshop is participatory. Cathy and Marcy will lead the group through a series of songs, activities and ideas that can easily be taken home or back to the daycare, classroom or home. Our goal is for teachers to gain new skills and repertoire through these easy to sing songs. Using call and response, demonstration, hand motions, sign language and straightforward sing-along techniques, teachers learn new repertoire quickly. Mixing good music, good humor and musical tools, everyone learns and enjoys at the same time.

Cathy & Marcy prepare an outline with lyrics, activities and resources for participants allowing participants to forgo taking notes and completely focus on the song and activity of the moment. The repertoire will be largely taken from the CD and Playbook: SING TO YOUR BABY, by Cathy & Marcy.

For more information: www.cathymarcy.com or www.singtoyourbaby.net