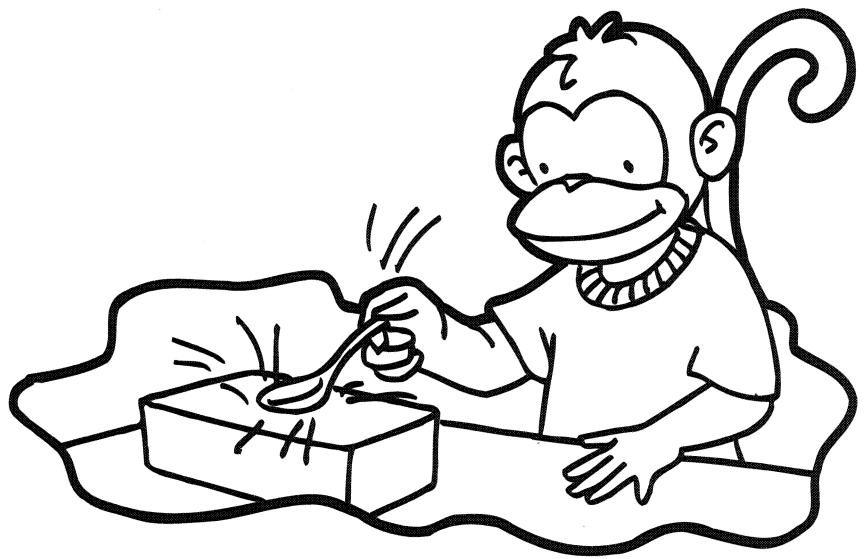


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## EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE: CHANTING TRICKS

Every language has its own distinct rhythm. Chanting helps children become aware of the rhythm of language and over time can help them learn to regulate the rhythm of their own speech.

Chanting is natural for children. Listen to them as they play. They'll sing out, "I've got the red car," or they'll taunt each other, "You can't come to my birthday."

To enhance children's awareness of the rhythm of chanting, sway back and forth to the chant's rhythm, or have children tap rhythmically on their bodies as they chant. For interaction, let everyone find a partner. While chanting, one of the pair uses a hand to make a back-and-forth "windshield wiper" action on the partner's back. For another, have one of the pair sit behind the other and tap the partner on alternating shoulders in rhythm with the chant. Switch partners and repeat.



### Birthday Chants

A Quick Trick with the "Happy Birthday" Song

**Gather these Materials:**

none

**Where:** at a birthday celebration

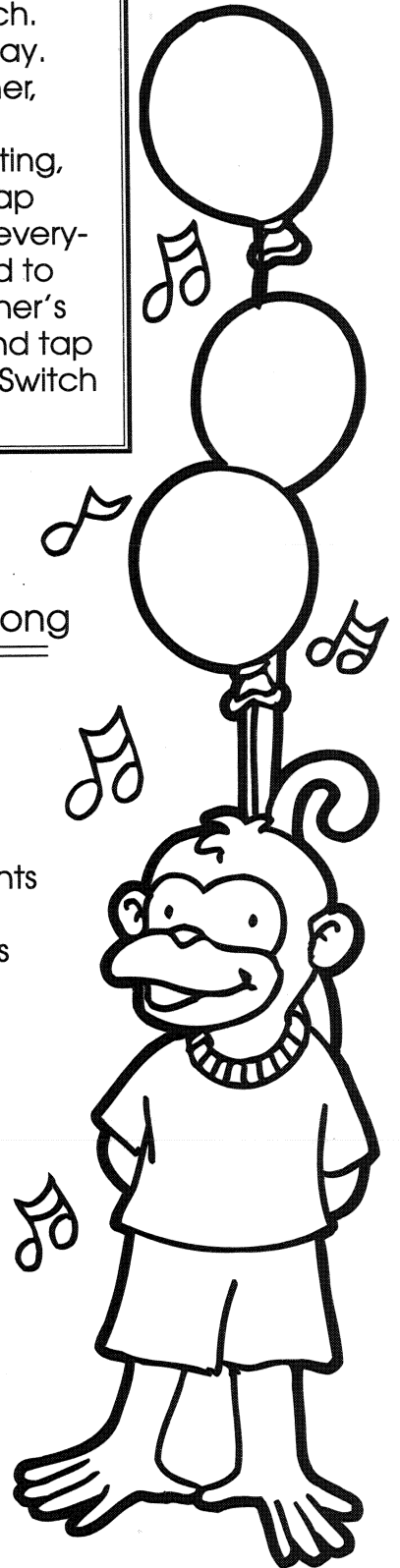
**How:** Use the rhythm of the "Happy Birthday" song to create chants that relate to birthdays. When the birthday honouree receives a present, he can chant, "Oh, I thank you very much." When guests arrive at a birthday party, all who are already gathered chant, "We're so happy you're here."

**Variation:**

Create chants for the rhythms of other popular songs.

**This activity also helps children learn about:**

receiving gifts and guests graciously.





# Chanting in our World

A Quick Trick with Things you See Around you

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## Gather these Materials:

none

**Where:** anywhere

**How:** When you and the children are outside, chant in monotone about something you see:

I see an ant,

I see an ant,

I see an ant,

I see an ant.

Point out the ant to your children or let them look for it and point it out.

Substitute other things you see for the underlined word.

## Variations:

Let your children take turns chanting about something they see while you and the remaining children look for the item.

With older preschool children, have each person in turn chant about something larger than the previously mentioned item.

## This activity also helps children learn about:

the variety of things in their environment.

