

The New York Public Library

# NYPL SINGS!

Songs for Our Children



This album is the brainchild of Children's Librarian, Emily Elizabeth Lazio. Emily wanted to showcase the multifaceted talents of our staff who, in addition to bringing books and learning alive to our young patrons and their families every day, wrote and performed the songs on this album. Each song on the album represents a different way for caregivers to prepare their children for a lifetime of learning. The album was made possible through the NYPL Innovation Project, generously supported by the Charles H. Revson Foundation, which supports Library staff for creative, unique ideas that improve programs, services and processes at NYPL.

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Executive Producer, Writer, and Performer • **Emily Elizabeth Lazio**

Producer, Arranger, Writer, and Performer • **Sean R. Ferguson**

Project Managers • **Eva Shapiro & Kristen Rocha Aldrich**

Concept Album • **Maggie Jacobs**

Album Recording Engineer • **Sean R. Ferguson at Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library**

Piano Session Recording Engineer • **Isaiah Abolin at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music**

Album Mixing • **Aaron Martinez & Sean R. Ferguson at Bits and Waves Productions**

Album Mastering • **Oscar Zambrano at Zampol Productions**

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#### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTING MUSICIANS

Accordion, Oboe • **Emily Elizabeth Lazio**

Acoustic and Electric Guitars, Electric Bass, Organ, Toy Piano • **Sean R. Ferguson**

Brushes, Shakers, Ukulele, Xylophone • **Joey Picciotto**

Congas • **Steven Horvath**

Cello • **Jenny Rosenoff**

Double Bass • **Aidan Carroll**

Flute • **Anne Serena**

Maschine Drum Kit • **Jordan Nieves**

Piano • **Maggie Jacobs**

Snares and Bass Drum, Mallets • **Paul Greenhaw**

Trombone • **Gregory Briggler**

Tuba • **Joe Exley**

Violins • **Sallie Baron, Max Stalker-Wilde**

Illustrations **Antonio De Jesus**

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# NYPL SINGS!

## Songs for Our Children

The New York Public Library is your partner in helping young children grow up to be strong readers and thinkers. Through this album, we focus on singing as a wonderful way for parents, caregivers, and librarians to bond with children and help them become self-confident, curious, and intrepid learners with a life-long love of reading. Use this booklet to learn about the important developmental skill each song represents and how easily you can reinforce these skills every day with your child. Borrow the CD at your local NYPL branch, or visit us online to download the songs for free: [nypl.org/abc](http://nypl.org/abc)

# Greetings from NYC

TRACK 1 | 3:58

Written by Emily Elizabeth Lazio & Joey Picciotto

Sung by Emily Elizabeth Lazio, Ruth Rodriguez, Sallie Baron,  
Ching Yi (Christy) Lau, Alessandra Affinito &  
Alyona Glushchenkova

Read, talk, sing, write, and play with your children in the language you know best! You are more likely to feel confident and to practice strong literacy skills in your native tongue. Exposure to multiple languages also helps children develop their problem-solving skills, creativity, and vocabulary, while helping them understand the value of diversity, empathy, and inclusivity.

Hello, good morning!  
How are you?  
I'm fine, thank you! And you?  
Hello, good morning!  
How are you?  
I'm fine, thank you! See you soon!

*Greet your friends and neighbors  
Find a way to say hello  
Share a story or a smile  
And help each other grow*

¡Hola, buenos dias!  
¿Cómo estás?  
Bien, gracias, ¿y tú?  
¡Hola, buenos dias!  
¿Cómo estás?  
Bien, gracias, ¡Hasta pronto!

Salut, bonjour!  
Ça va?  
Bien, merci! Et toi?  
Salut, bonjour!  
Ça va?  
Bien, merci! À bientôt!

你好, 早上好!  
(Nǐ hǎo, zǎoshang hǎo!)  
你好吗?  
(Nǐ hǎo ma?)  
我很好, 谢谢! 你呢?  
(Wǒ hěn hǎo, xièxie! Nǐ ne?)  
你好, 早上好!  
(Nǐ hǎo, zǎoshang hǎo!)  
你好吗?  
(Nǐ hǎo ma?)  
我很好, 谢谢! 再见!  
(Wǒ hěn hǎo, xièxie! zàijiàn!)

مرحباً صباح الخير!  
(Murhba, sabah alkhyr!)  
كيف حالك?  
(Kayf halik?)  
انا بخير, شكرا! و ماذا عنك?  
(Ana bkhyr, shukran!  
wa metha anek?)  
مرحباً صباح الخير!  
(Murhba, sabah alkhyr!)  
كيف حالك?  
(Kayf halik?)  
انا بخير, شكرا! و اراك قريب!  
(Ana bkhyr, shukran!  
wa arak qariban!)

Здравствуйте, доброе утро!  
(Zdravstvuyte, dobroye utro!)  
Как дела?  
(Kak dela?)  
Я в порядке, спасибо! А ты?  
(Ya v porjadke, spasibo! A ty?)  
Здравствуйте, доброе утро!  
(Zdravstvuyte, dobroye utro!)  
Как дела?  
(Kak dela?)  
Я в порядке, спасибо!  
Увидимся!  
(Ya v porjadke, spasibo!  
Uvidimsya!)

Goodbye  
Adiós  
Au revoir  
再见 (Zàijiàn)  
مع السلامة (ma salama)  
До свидания (Do svidaniya)

# I Read Everywhere

TRACK 2 | 3:33 .....

Written and sung by Leah Labrecque

You can read everywhere! As you travel around the city, point out words on street signs, bus stops, and shop windows, or go on a “letter walk” and ask your child to find a specific letter in the neighborhood. Always remember to sound out the words you see to help your child make the connection between how letters look and sound.



When I step out of my building, I see words all around  
On a billboard, on a street sign, in the subway underground  
Each word that I learn to read is like a magic key  
I'll unlock the whole world, just you wait and see

*'Cause I read everywhere, so you can't keep a secret from me  
No, you can't keep a secret from me.  
My neighborhood is full of words I know  
I read everywhere, stand back and watch me go!*

Cross the street, look both ways: W-A-L-K  
Get pastrami on rye at the D-E-L-I  
We can run, jump, and play at the P-A-R-K  
Stand as still as a tree when we S-T-O-P  
Read what's happening, yes! N-E-W-S  
Is it faster to fly or take a T-A-X-I

Now that I'm quite the big reader, bring a book everywhere  
Never leave home without one, maybe two to share  
I can read while we're waiting, for a train, or on a line  
At the doctor's, in a taxi—reading makes the whole world mine

*'Cause I read everywhere, so you can't keep a secret from me  
No, you can't keep a secret from me.  
My neighborhood is full of words I know  
I read everywhere, stand back and watch me go!  
Stand back and watch me grow!*



# Dealing with Feelings

TRACK 3 | 4:41

Written by Joey Picciotto & Andrew Oppenheimer  
Sung by Michael Alvarez, Leah Labrecque,  
Emily Elizabeth Lazio & Andrew Oppenheimer

Have fun with feelings! Expressing emotions can be difficult for young children. Help them name their feelings so they can better understand and regulate their feelings as they grow and enter new social situations, such as school. Try using a mirror to model and identify different feelings. You can also use books to help discuss difficult emotions or label the feelings of different characters. Remember to ask your local librarian for book recommendations.

When we're feeling scared,  
it means that we're being  
faced with something new,  
Like a trip real far away,  
or a ghost jumping out  
and saying "Boo!"

It helps us to stay careful and  
try new things real slowly,  
And when we face our fears,  
there's so many new places  
we can go, Wee!

If we're feeling happy,  
then we do a little dance  
or jump for joy,  
Like when we hear music,  
or play with our favorite  
game or toy,  
It's good to know about  
the things that make us  
excited and glad,  
So when we're feeling down,  
we can think of all the happy  
times we've had.

*Feelings are important;  
they make us who we are,  
We feel them in our bellies  
and we feel them in our hearts  
Happy and excited, or sad  
and feeling blue,  
It's always for a reason that  
you'll find inside of you.*



At times we're feeling angry,  
and we want to bang our fists  
or yell and shout,  
And we don't want to stop 'til  
everybody knows what we're  
so mad about,  
But if we take a breath and  
count to ten, we'd be  
better understood,  
Turn frustration into words,  
and soon everybody's  
feeling pretty good

Sadness is that feeling when  
it seems like not a thing  
can make us smile,  
And we might want friends  
around us, or instead left  
alone for a while,  
It may seem like a bad thing,  
but it's a great time to think  
things through,  
So when someone else feels  
upset, you can help them  
feel better too.

# Questions

## (or Arctic Wolves Don't Eat People)

TRACK 4 | 4:00

Written by Julie Anne Korpi, Emily Elizabeth Lazio & Maggie Jacobs  
Sung by Andrew Fairweather, Julie Anne Korpi, Mark Hamilton & Sean R. Ferguson

Always ask questions while you read! Try asking a mix of different questions to help keep your child engaged and promote their critical thinking skills. Open-ended questions, such as “how would you feel?” or “what do you think will happen next?” build reading comprehension. For younger children with less vocabulary, try simple questions about the pictures in the story, like “can you find \_\_\_\_?” or “what color is this?”

As we're reading through this book,  
We can pause and take a look,  
Taking time to understand.  
Simple questions as we go,  
Help our minds to stretch and grow,  
Now we'll read as we had planned.



Once upon a time...  
There was a brave, little girl who liked wearing red.  
She skipped through the woods,  
Which can be a pretty frightening place...  
*...How would you feel?*

She's on a trip to Grandma's.  
She knocked on the door and she heard, “Come in.”  
She opened up the door and was surprised at what she saw inside...  
*...What do you think she saw?*

It was a wolf in a chair.  
He sat at the table with a plate and a bib.  
The girl then bravely said, “Hey Mister, you ate my Grandma!”...  
*...What's your favorite food?*

*How do we use these moments in our stories?  
How do we get our minds to roam free?  
We always ask,  
We seek and find,  
As we sit together and we read.*

The wolf then laughed and said,  
“No dear, I'm an arctic wolf and we don't eat people!”  
“Then where did she go?”  
And Grandma came out from the other room...  
*...How did that make the girl feel?*

Grandma sat down with the wolf.  
“Dearie, this is my friend. We just made some cookies!”  
“No chocolate chips for me!”  
And they laughed and they ate and they ate some more.

*How do we use these moments in our stories?  
How do we get our minds to roam free?  
We always ask,  
We seek and find,  
As we sit together and we read ... and then we know.*

# Every Day Is a New Day

TRACK 5 | 3:57 .....

Written by Emily Elizabeth Lazio, Abilene Castillo, Leah Labrecque & Chris Ruiz

Sung by Abilene Castillo & Emily Elizabeth Lazio

Get into a daily rhythm! Routines are really important for young children. Creating and discussing routines helps them make choices, feel independent, and gain valuable self-help skills. Establishing routines with clear transitions between activities also helps your child progress from one activity to the next and sets them up for school success.

This week we have so many things we have to do  
And sharing the plans makes it better—it helps me help you  
Working in tandem is so much more fun  
Let's see what's ahead and then get the task done

On Monday, we'll go to the grocery store  
and purchase three peppers, or, hey, maybe four!  
A green one, an orange, a yellow, and red  
And maybe a loaf of some marble rye bread!

Then Tuesday we'll mail out that package by ten  
To make sure it gets where it's going and then  
On Wednesday your library books are due back  
You'll gather them up—pack them up in your sack

*'Cause days are much better  
When we're together  
Learning by watching you  
It's simple to see  
The person I'll be  
Watching what grown-ups do*



We can talk about our walkabout  
And what we're going to do!  
We share our feelings, thoughts, and plans  
About transitions we'll go through!

Thursday you'll learn how to lace up your shoes  
We'll practice until it comes natural to you  
Don't worry, it's tricky, but I know you're smart  
You'll give it your best—try with all of your heart!

Then Friday comes next—we will go to the zoo  
To see the red panda devour bamboo  
We'll make sure we bring an umbrella with us  
The forecast says rain, so we'll ride on the bus

This weekend your cousins are coming to play  
We'll bake macarons, sing and dance like all day  
We'll make sure we rest, that is important too!  
'Cause tomorrow you're starting your first day of school!

*And then I'll know  
How to do it on my own  
And be confident  
To try something that's new!*

# Are You Ready to Move?

TRACK 6 | 3:14 .....

**Written by** Jonathan Clark, Shauntee Burns, Jordan Nieves, Jennifer Gaeta & Emily Elizabeth Lazio

**Sung by** Jonathan Clark, Shauntee Burns, Jennifer Gaeta, Quincy Williams, Alessandra Affinito, Michael Alvarez, Kathleen Arthur, Sallie Baron, Abilene Castillo, Dawn Chance, Frank Collierius, Chelsea Condren, Sean R. Ferguson, Gwen Glazer, Kaydene Humphrey, Esther Jackson, Julie Anne Korpi, Leah Labrecque, Ching Yi (Christy) Lau, Emily Elizabeth Lazio, Anthony Murisco, Miranda Murray, Shabana Noorhassan, Andrew Oppenheimer, Leslie Phillips, Kristy Raffensberger, Ruth Rodriguez, Jenny Rosenoff, Jill Rothstein, Chris Ruiz, Anne Serena, Kimberly Spring & Max Stalker-Wilde

Move with your child! Engaging in physical activity with children promotes togetherness and builds healthy habits. Movement encourages creative expression in young children and lets them experience the rhythm of words. Let your child take the lead as you boogie from the park to the kitchen!



Hey everybody!  
Are you ready to shake things up?  
If you're feelin' this song, c'mon  
move along!  
Get up out yo' seat and dance now  
to this beat.

*Movin' to this song!*  
*Every verse we're getting strong!*  
*Dancing with our friends*  
*The party never ends*  
*This day is going fine*  
*We're having a great time*  
*Moving to this song!*  
*Every verse we're getting strong!*

If you're ready, say "yeah!"  
If you're ready, say "oh yeah!"  
If you're ready, put your hands  
in the air  
And wave 'em like you just  
don't care!  
If you're ready, give a clap  
If you're ready, give two claps  
If you're ready, give a stomp  
If you're ready, give two stomps

I think that you're ready  
but I'm just not sure  
If you're ready and you're steady  
get down on the floor.  
Whatcha doin' on the floor? C'mon,  
stand up if you want  
some more!

So if you're ready, say "yeah!"  
If you're ready, say "oh yeah!"  
If you're ready, run in place  
Like you're runnin' in a race  
If you're ready, slide left

If you're ready, slide right  
If you're ready, jump around!  
If you're ready, reach low  
Reach down and touch your toes  
If you're ready, twist and shout  
Twist your body all about.

That was so much fun,  
now come and play along  
We're doin' double time,  
so we're speedin' up this song  
Look up, look down,  
turn yourself around  
Look left, look right,  
now step to the side  
Reach up for the sky,  
find a friend and wave hi!  
You're looking really fine,  
so let's do it one more time.  
Look up, look down,  
turn yourself around  
Look left, look right,  
now step to the side  
Touch your nose! Strike a pose!  
Put your hands on your hips  
Shake it out and freeze!

It's time to bring it down  
and sit down on the ground  
Reach your arms up high  
and let out a soft sigh  
Now bring your arms back down  
and sink down to the ground  
I'm feelin' mighty strong  
and I'm done movin'  
to this song.



# Grandpa's Farm

TRACK 7 | 3:07

Written by Emily Elizabeth Lazio

Sung by Emily Elizabeth Lazio & Sean R. Ferguson

Make sounds and sing rhymes with your child! Sounds are the building blocks of words. When reading books about animals, encourage your child to make animal sounds. Creating identifiable sounds helps get young children ready to read.

Grandpa used to have a farm  
And work the land with his strong arm  
He'd wake up with the rising sun  
And go to bed when the day was done

And he'd go out to milk the cow  
And the cow goes: MOOO

*And he would work until he knew  
That the daily chores were through  
'Cause that's what you do  
When you have a farm*

And he'd go out to shear the sheep  
And the sheep go: BAAAA  
And he'd go out to milk the cow  
And the cow goes: MOOO

And he'd go out to walk the dog  
And the dog goes: BARK BARK  
And he'd go out to shear the sheep  
And the sheep go: BAAAA  
And he'd go out to milk the cow  
And the cow goes: MOOO

And he'd go out to feed the chickens  
And the chickens go: CLUCK CLUCK  
And he'd go out to walk the dog  
And the dog goes: BARK BARK  
And he'd go out to shear the sheep  
And the sheep go: BAAAA  
And he'd go out to milk the cow  
And the cow goes: MOOO



# Play Song

## (Better with Two)

TRACK 8 | 3:31 .....

Written by Maggie Jacobs & Sean R. Ferguson

Sung by Sean R. Ferguson & Maggie Jacobs

Play with your child! The world of play builds vocabulary and storytelling skills, which are critical to language development. Most importantly, entering the imaginative world of your child is a great way to bond with them. Children who are secure in their relationship with their grown-up are more likely to be intellectually curious, explore the world around them, and then “come back to you.”

*Mommy, mommy, won't you play with me,  
We can go any place we dream.  
One is fine, but it's better with two,  
I wonder away and come back to you.*

*As I walk in the jungle,  
Creeping without a sound,  
Jaguars, vipers, toucans, and elephants,  
Sloths and dart frogs gather 'round.*

*Daddy, daddy, won't you play with me,  
I'll be the eagle, you'll be the tree,  
One is fine, but it's better with two,  
I'll fly away, then come back to you.*

*As I walk down the gangplank,  
O'er the deep blue sea,  
Pirates, peg legs, hook hands, and rotten teeth,  
Swords and patches, come rescue me.*

*Sister, sister, won't you play with me,  
I'll be the treasure chest, you'll be the key.  
One is fine, but it's better with two,  
I'll sail far away, then come back to you.*

*As I roam through the circus,  
Such a crazy sight.  
Stilts and tight ropes, clowns and jugglers,  
Bears and ponies, oh what a night!*

*Grandpa, grandpa, won't you play with me,  
I'll be the acrobat, you'll be MC.  
One is fine, but it's better with two,  
I'll swing far away, then come back to you.*

*As I float in my spaceship,  
Stars shine all around,  
Asteroids, black holes, planets, and galaxies,  
Rockets with astronauts launch from the ground.*

*Cousin, cousin, won't you play with me,  
I'll be dark energy, you'll be gravity.  
One is fine, but it's better with two,  
I'll zoom far away, then come back to you.*



# Lullaby

TRACK 9 | 3:07 .....

Written by Esther Jackson & Emily Elizabeth Lazio  
Sung by Esther Jackson

Be attentive to your child's needs! This helps strengthen your bond and promotes healthy child development. Mirror your baby's first sounds and smiles, hug your toddler when they're crying, and talk to your preschooler about their feelings. All of these are responsive interactions that build the brain and create emotional security, which encourages a lifetime of exploration and learning.

Sleep, little one, sleep  
Night has come, it's dark outside  
Sleep, little one, sleep  
The time is now to  
close your eyes

*You are safe and warm in your home  
with your family that loves you so  
You are safe and warm in your home  
with your family that loves you so*

Sleep, little one, sleep  
Snuggle close  
as you rock in my arms  
Sleep, little one, sleep  
Know I love you  
as I lay you down to sleep



You know I'll always comfort you  
I'm never too far—I can follow your cues  
By listening closely I'll know what to do  
And I'll never stop loving you  
No, I'll never stop loving you

When the tears start to come, I'll wipe them away  
You know I'll come running to make it okay  
Then I see that you're smiling and I smile too  
And I'll never stop loving you  
I will never stop loving you

*You are safe and warm in your home  
with your family that loves you so  
You're secure and warm in your home  
with your family that loves you so*

# NYPL Sings

## (The Library Song)

TRACK 10 | 3:23 .....

Written by Emily Elizabeth Lazio & Joey Picciotto  
Sung by Emily Elizabeth Lazio, Sean R. Ferguson, Alessandra Affinito, Michael Alvarez, Kathleen Arthur, Sallie Baron, Shauntee Burns, Abilene Castillo, Dawn Chance, Frank Collierius, Chelsea Condren, Jennifer Gaeta, Gwen Glazer, Kaydene Humphrey, Esther Jackson, Julie Anne Korpi, Leah Labrecque, Ching Yi (Christy) Lau, Miranda Murray, Andrew Oppenheimer, Leslie Phillips, Ruth Rodriguez, Jenny Rosenoff, Jill Rothstein, Chris Ruiz, Anne Serena & Kimberly Spring

Visit your local library with your child! Having books in the home is linked to school success, and the Library is a great place to find free books for every interest. Borrow books and read together every day to build the essential reading skills needed for school and life-long learning.

*FUN FACT: The numbers in this song allude to the kinds of books found in each class of the Dewey Decimal System!*

I'm heading down to the library  
To borrow some books that I want to read  
And on my way there  
I'm gonna wave to the lions  
There's so many books  
hanging out on the shelf  
And a friendly face  
Always willing to help  
And when I go  
I always know  
I'll leave with a smile  
And a pile  
That goes for miles and miles  
I can read for a while



*I'll grab all the books that I can find  
Read every one! I'm expanding my mind  
One by one, let's count them and see  
How many books we can get from the library!*

One: Found a book about thinking with your mind  
Two: About legends, and dragons, and giants  
Three: Fairy tales about kings and queens  
Four: Finding out what every word means

Five: How a plant's pollinated by bees  
Six: Turning milk into butter and cheese  
Seven: Making music and the joy it can hold  
Eight: Lots of jokes and some riddles of old

Nine: Exploration through time and strange lands  
Ten: Librarians—lending a hand  
So many books! All exciting and new  
Next time I go, maybe you can come too?

Yeah, next time I go, hey, you should come too!

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## LISTEN TO THE ALBUM FOR FREE!

Find this album at your local library, or listen to it any time by finding our free download online: [nypl.org/abc](https://nypl.org/abc)

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### ABOUT EARLY LITERACY AT THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library is an essential partner for parents and caregivers of young children, offering a wide range of programs and resources to help kids develop essential early literacy skills needed for school success. Discover story times, family literacy workshops, and hands-on programs to learn how to read, talk, sing, write, and play with your children every day.

**PLUS!** Pick up the Library's free early literacy kit, which includes a board book with rhymes and fingerplays, and other educational materials available in Spanish, Chinese, Bengali, French, Arabic, Korean, and Russian at select locations.

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**City's First Readers**  
A Division of the New York City Council



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