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.

**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 lifelong 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

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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

**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

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Illustrations • Antonio De Jesus

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Greetings from NYC

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 días!
¿Cómo estás?
Bien, gracias, ¿y tú?
¡Hola, buenos días!
¿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, zāoshang hǎo!)
你好吗？
(Nǐ hǎo ma?)
我很好, 谢谢！你呢？
(Wǒ hěn hǎo, xièxié! Nǐ ne?)
你好, 早上好!
(Nǐ hǎo, zāoshang hǎo!)
你好吗？
(Nǐ hǎo ma?)
我很好, 谢谢！再见！
(Wǒ hěn hǎo, xièxié! zàijiàn!)

مرحبا, صباح الخير!
(Murhba! sabah alkhyr!)
كيف حالك؟
(Kayf halik?)
انا بخير، شكرا و ماذا عنك؟
(Ana bkhyr! shukran! wa metha anek?)
مرحبا, 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 poryadke, spasibo! A ty?)
Здравствуйте, доброе утро!
(Zdravstvuyte, dobroye utro!)
Как дела?
(Kak dela?)
Я в порядке, спасибо!
Увидимся!
(Ya v poryadke, spasibo!
Uvidimsya!)

Goodbye
Adiós
Au revoir
再见 (Zàijiàn)
مع السلام (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

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.

Sadness is that feeling when it seems like not a thing can make us smile, and instead we might want friends around us, or instead live alone for a while.

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.

Remember to ask your local librarian for book recommendations.

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.

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

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.
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 macaroons, 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!
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!

Are You Ready to Move?

TRACK 6 | 3:14

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


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

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

Written by Emily Elizabeth Lazio
Sung by Emily Elizabeth Lazio & Sean R. Ferguson
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

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

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.
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!

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

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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