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MENU



## Traditional Nursery Rhymes Versus Pop Music

July 30, 2013 By [Nicola Young](#) — 16 Comments

Whilst in the car the other day, with the radio playing, as usual, my son said 'I love this song mummy,' and proceeded to sing along. It made me laugh because he got the words significantly wrong, but the fact that he was so enthusiastic about a pop song made me think about what the girls were like at his age.



When my eldest daughter was little all we ever listened to in the car were nursery rhymes. She loved them and would complain if I tried to sneak the radio on. It would drive me crazy but I always seemed to sing along too; even finding myself listening to them when she wasn't in the car. It was at these moments that I would check myself and think how ridiculous I must sound. I felt old when I realized I didn't even know who was in the charts any more.

My second child didn't care much for singing; in fact she never sang a word of any nursery rhyme or song until she was at least four years old. So it never mattered whether or not they were playing in the car or anywhere else; much to my delight. However, guilt crept in and I felt as though it was only fair that I play them for her too. But after a while, in accordance with her lack of interest, the nursery rhymes were eagerly dispensed of and by that time my eldest was starting to recognize and enjoy the songs being played on the radio, yippee.

Those CD's never returned to the car, so all my youngest has ever listened to are pop songs. He loves them just as much as the girls do, which is great for all of us. What is interesting, though, is that he knows all the nursery rhymes too, having learned them at preschool and he loves these songs just as much as any other.



So I don't feel as guilty that I didn't grit my teeth and suffer those repetitive tunes over and over again and it just goes to show that you don't necessarily need to do that either.

Having said that, I do think it is important that children learn nursery rhymes; partly because they are a tradition passed from generation to generation, but also because they are fun.

The simple act of singing along to action songs can help children to develop early language and counting skills as well as interacting with others. Listening skills can be nurtured by encouraging children to repeat what the song is asking them to do and clapping, tapping or marching to the beat introduces a sense of rhythm. Being able to watch and copy others, as well as taking turns are all important skills for children to learn before they start school.

I am happy to report that my son has learned a variety of preschool songs, and has experienced the benefits that come from singing them and doing the actions, without them being played over and over again at home. He loves to sing, both pop songs and rhymes, and he doesn't mind where he does it or who is looking at him. What makes me smile though is the anticipation of what he will sing next. It could be a rendition of 'twinkle, twinkle little star' or equally his own version of Bruno Mars 'I think I want to marry yooo.'

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#### Nicola Young

Nicola Young is a freelance copywriter, with experience in all aspects of commercial writing, including articles, newsletters, press releases and web content. She also writes young adult and children's fiction and regularly blogs about her own family life.

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[Sarah at Journeys of The Zoo](#) says  
August 1, 2013 at 7:32 pm

My kids love to listen to music. All of it, all the time. They got that from their Father because as far as I'm concerned, it's all noise to me 😊 Thankfully, he doesn't listen to "junk" music. Classical is his favorite.

Besos, Sarah  
Blogger at Journeys of The Zoo

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