

## **Reading with a Steady Beat**

Excerpted from “Sing a Song of Stories” workshop  
By Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist Valerie Bayne Carroll

Many stories for very young children have musical, rhyming, and repetitive language that can be read while keeping a steady beat. You can keep the beat by patting yourself or the baby, shaking an egg, or tapping your foot. Keeping the beat draws the children into the story. It also provides a contrast to the rhythm of the words you are speaking, emphasizing the musicality of language. If you have trouble reading and patting the beat at the same time, ask another adult to keep the beat while you read.

Here are some good books to read while keeping a steady beat:

*Hello Baby* by Mem Fox

*Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes* by Mem Fox

*Chugga-Chugga, Choo-Choo* by Daniel Kirk

*This Little Chick* by John Lawrence

*Hush! A Thai Lullaby* by Mingfong Ho

*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

*In the Tall, Tall Grass* by Denise Fleming

*In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming

*I Went Walking* by Sue Williams