



## Alphabet,

## Alphabet 1-2-3!

**Three-Quarter Time:** The song “Alphabet, Alphabet” is written in three-quarter time. That means it moves like a waltz, with three beats per measure: 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3.

**Clap and Tap the Rhythm:** Begin by simply clapping out a 1-2-3 rhythm with your child. When he has mastered clapping, extend the activity by tapping the beat on an instrument such as rhythm sticks, a hand drum, or any homemade percussion instrument. (An overturned pot or empty box works just fine!)

**Move to the Beat:** Now move to the beat with your child! Encourage him to feel the 1-2-3 pattern by walking, tip-toeing, or swooping around the room.

**Put on the Music and GO:** Play “Alphabet, Alphabet” and encourage your child to actively respond to the three-quarter time however he likes: He can clap, tap on an instrument, or dance, dance, dance to the music! Or he can do all three in sequence. Children love dancing to a waltz rhythm, so make sure you have plenty of room. Don't forget to dance along!

**As If Having Fun Isn't Enough:** We know that music and movement create neural connections in the brain. The developing brain is wired to learn as the body moves. When you add the patterns in a song to a movement sequence, you are helping to strengthen vital neural connections. Research indicates that these connections may also help develop later mathematical and problem-solving skills.

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