

# Echo Singing

## Sound Matching

Echo singing is an important preparatory skill for developing emergent literacy skills and is also an important first step in targeting communication skills. To develop beat competence (the ability to keep a steady beat) and the skill of vocal imitation, I typically include an echo singing activity near the beginning of most literacy groups. Developing the ability to discriminate and imitate high versus low pitches is also an important emergent literacy skill and this is one way to include this skill.

I structure this activity with a prerecorded rhythmic loop using a keyboard or repetitive loop track recorded in Garageband. I start the improvised song with the same introduction as shown below. Then I improvise a 3 beat vocalization followed by a 1 beat rest. Children echo the 4 beat phrase until I close the echo singing using the same vocalization I used at the beginning. An example:

The musical notation is written on three staves in 4/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). The first staff contains the following notes and lyrics: I sing, you sing, my turn first. A B C (echo) 1 2 3 (echo). The second staff contains: la la la (echo) ooh ah ooh (echo) ah boo! (echo). The third staff contains: sh sh sh (echo) A B C (echo) 1 2 3 (echo).