



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC6rvbxdywg>



Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques

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Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous?

Sonnez les matines!
Sonnez les matines!

Ding, dang, dong. Ding, dang, dong.

Frère Jacques English lyrics

Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?

Brother John, Brother John,

Morning bells are ringing! Morning bells are ringing!

Ding, dang, dong. Ding, dang, dong.



Big Ben is a tower clock known for its accuracy and for its massive hour bell. Strictly speaking, the name refers only to the bell.

Younger children

You can start communicating with your baby before it is even born. By the time they are full term, they will be able to hear at about the same level as an adult. Sing the song softly and slowly as you get used to pronouncing the words. This is a lovely song to sing with the baby in your arms, gently rocking them to the rhythm, like a Lullaby. Lullabies allow infants to create neural pathways for calming down, soothing, falling asleep, especially important in the early months of life when brain pathways are being created.

(Also, bilingual experience has been shown to improve cognitive abilities, especially problem-solving.)

Chat Play Share...Other ideas you could try....

Share a story together about bells or sleep. Chat about the pictures and story. Discuss a good bedtime routine which will help your child get to sleep and enable them to wake up fully refreshed. Examples of stories:

- There was an old lady who swallowed a bell by Lucille Colandro
- I'm Not Sleepy: Helping Toddlers to Sleep by Campbell Books
- Unplugged by Steve Antony
- Jingle Bells by Nick Butterworth

Older children

Have a go at learning this song in French. Listen and sing it a line at a time. Talk about the meaning of the song in English. Listen out for any bells or alarms in your daily life. What are they for? What do they tell us? Set your alarm clock or phone to wake you up in the morning. Set a two minute alarm when you brush your teeth. Use a timer or phone alarm to tell you when tea is ready. Go for a walk and listen out for church bells or bells/sirens of emergency vehicles. Can you tell which one it is?

What Sound is That?

Blindfold your child or ask them to turn around. Walk around the room and make noises with various everyday items. Ask your child what they are and talk about the type of sound you can hear.

This can be done in any room – a bathroom, kitchen, bedroom, living room or even outdoors. Make sounds such as:

open the refrigerator door

switch on the blender

lift and close the swing dustbin

take an ice cube out of the tray

switch on the tap

peel a banana

boil the kettle



You could hide your mobile phone with the alarm set with a bell ringtone and see if your child can find it. Listening and attention skills are very important to develop and will help children focus when having a 'to and fro' conversation with another person.