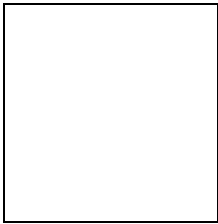


## Children's Songs and Art

This tour brings another dimension to a tour – singing songs that most young people will know. I have omitted some great songs where motions are too large or would require standing and walking in a way that might be unwise in a museum. All motions in this tour can be done while seated.

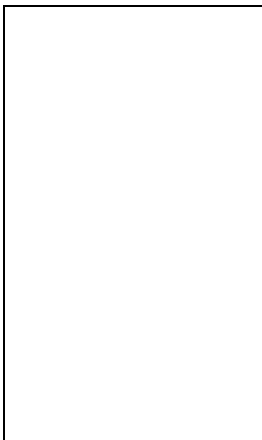
1 – **Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star** – There are motions to go with the song – easy to take part.  
Chihuly “Sunburst” 99.132

It's not a star, but you could make the connection about things in the sky. Everyone seems to love the piece. If you view it from the side stairs, you would be out of the way and possibly find room to sit on the floor. Once you introduce this and if attention seems to be lagging later in the tour, you could have guest lie on their backs on the floor and look at ceiling lights and pretend they are stars – then call the Chihuly to mind.

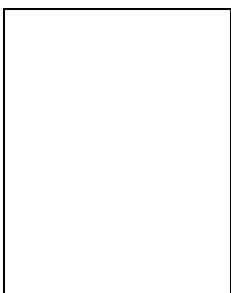


2 – **Itsy Bitsy Spider** – Motions to go with the song.  
Nicola di Maestro Antonio “Madonna and Child Enthroned” 75.53

This song has small muscle movements and calls for concentration. There's a fly in the painting, so you could talk about “bugs” in general – flies and spiders. Ask them what bugs they have seen. The fly is at the bottom so children should be able to see it. Ask why they think the artist painted a fly.



3 – **Rock-a-Bye Baby** – Guests can do a rocking motion with arms folded.  
Unknown artist. “Virgin and Child in a Landscape” 1492-98 Church art. 90.7



Easy to have children pretend they are holding a baby and rocking it. There are animals to see in the painting. “Embroidered” leaves – observe how carefully they are painted. Mary's dress looks real. Many symbols. Depending upon the group, you could ask if they have ever held a baby, if they have younger sisters or brothers, etc.

If the above is busy, or if the subject of mother and baby seem to work well, there are more:

2007.102.2 Seminole Shirt – not a “baby shirt” but make a young person connection

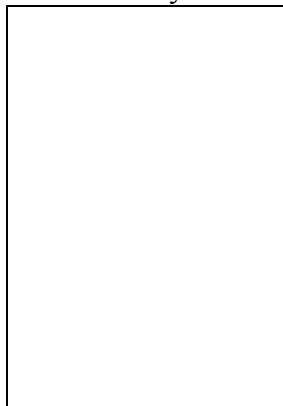
2003.162.2 American - cradle board cover. You could talk about ways that people care for their young.

66.24 Madonna Enthroned. This might be a little austere, but it might work

2009.39.2 Ethiopian icon. This might be hard to see, but with the right group, you could point out a mother and baby.

4. **Star Spangled Banner** – Not a children's song, but many will know it. Could make the connection with sports often starting with the Star Spangled Banner.

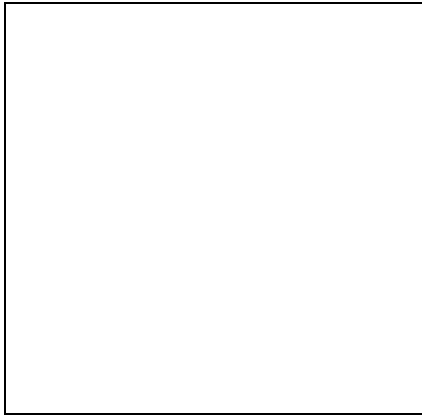
Thomas Sully “A Portrait of George Washington” 32.12



Lots of symbolism here. There's a dog in it – symbol of loyalty – most kids have some connection with a dog or other pet. What does the word “spangled” mean? Make the association with sparkly things. Is the Chihuly sparkly? Do you think glitter is sparkly? Is it spangled? Why is George Washington holding a sword? Do you think it might be an umbrella?

5. **ABC Song**. Universally known. Practice (with yourself) the last several letters first/there are different versions.

Berthe Morisot, “The Artist's Daughter”. 96.40 Could make the connection: As they sew, they talk ... and maybe sing the ABC song. If the group seems ready for it, you could point out that “Twinkle, Twinkle” and the ABC song are the same melody. Do you know how to sew? Do you like to do crafts/art projects? Who has helped you learn how to do things?



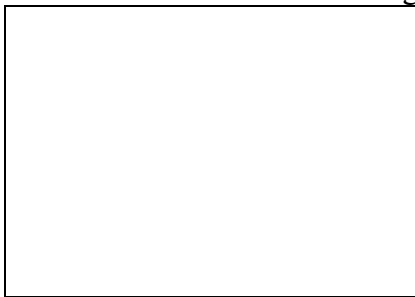
If the group seems ready for it, or you pass along the way, there is:

Elaborate writing Desk – 76.74 “How would you like to learn to write on this desk?”

Japanese script – Galleries 252-253. If this changes, find other Chinese script. “And you thought learning to write ABC was hard!”

6. **Baby Shark**. Are you really sure you want to sing this? Sit and do shark jaw motions with arms.

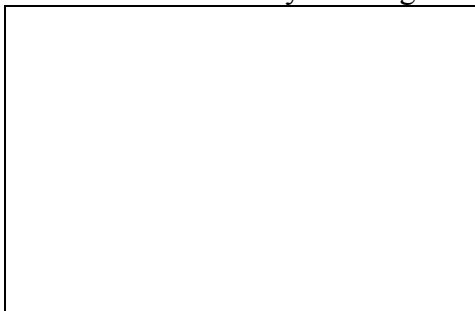
Junius Brutus Stearns - “Fishing Party off Long Island” 78.26



Have you ever gone fishing? Have you ever seen a shark? What do you know about sharks? What do you think the people in the painting are looking at? Where are their life vests? Would you like to be in a small boat next to a big shark?

7. **The Wheels on the Bus**

Robert Koehler “Rainy Evening on Hennepin Avenue”. 25.403

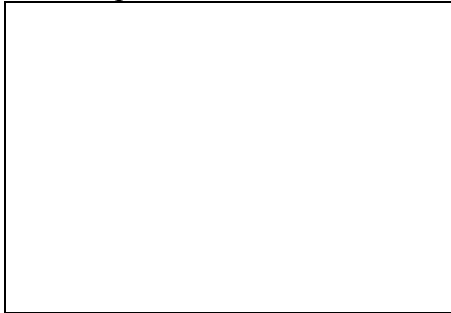


This is in here because it is easy to sing and there are a lot of motions – may be good if attention is lagging. This is a stretch – but could talk about how lighting is important in a museum (the lights on the bus go blink, blink, blink) – lay on the floor and look at the ceiling – for lights. On the Mia website, “bus” shows up a lot, but no good pictures of buses to be had. But, there is a trolley in the Koehler piece. It's a stretch. Might

work, depending on the group. Can make the connection – most children arrived at Mia on a bus – doesn't directly connect to the museum – might be a good piece if attention is lagging

8. **Old MacDonald Had a Farm**. Many, many works of art for this one.

Troyon, “Landscape with Cattle and Sheep” 49.6 usually enough room here to sit, and most will know cows and sheep.



Other animals:

Fantasy coffin 2010.72. OK, you'll have to work to get around “Is there a dead person in there?” could say that it reminds you of a lobster with claws. Make claw imitations with hands and for “Old MacDonald” you could say “Snap Snap”.

Studio Garden (China) 98.61.2. Good place to sit. Fantasy animals. What do you see?

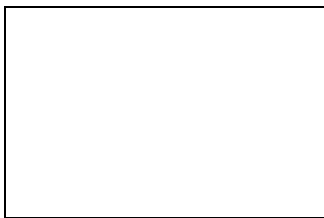
Leopard Water Pitcher – Africa – 58.9 - What do you think a leopard would sound like?

Bronze Horses of San Marco 79.13 – Have you seen horses? Ride on one?

2002.45 Celestial Horse(s). Many animals in Chinese art section. Find a place and be seated.

9. **Row, row, row your boat**. More boats in Mia than you might think.

Paul Signac, 62.36 “Blessing of the Tuna Fleet” - not a row boat but brilliant color and often room to sit. These are sail boats, but do you think you could be strong enough to row them, if they had oars? If you sense it would work, you could try a round of “Row, row” with 2 groups in the guests.



75.7 James Tissot “On the Thames”. It's a row boat. Room to sit here? If they've already seen the Signac, you could walk passed here and point out a row boat.