Most of us only know the first verse to this favorite traditional song. But the full lyrics were first published as a poem written by Jane Taylor, titled, “The Star,” and published in 1806. The full lyrics are not only beautiful, but provide rich vocabulary not used in our everyday speech.

We know number of words a child knows (vocabulary) when entering kindergarten is a major indicator of reading readiness and later success in reading. Songs, and especially traditional songs and nursery rhymes are packed with words we don’t use everyday and are a great way to not only pass down culture, but build that vocabulary. I hope you will play and sing this beautiful old song with your child or children, and let them experience the magic of words as their little minds grow!

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

1. Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are.  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are.

2. When the blazing sun is gone,  
When he nothing shines upon,  
Then you show your little light,  
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.

3. Then the traveler in the dark,  
Thanks you for your tiny spark,  
He could not see which way to go,  
If you did not twinkle so.

4. In the dark blue sky you keep,  
And often through my curtains peep,  
For you never shut your eye,  
Till the sun is in the sky.

5. As your bright and tiny spark,  
Lights the traveler in the dark.  
Though I know not what you are,  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.