

Lost Donny & Marie Children's Song Collection Reemerges as a Modern Reading Resource

Twenty-five forgotten recordings from the Osmond family's early years are restored and repurposed to support children's reading.

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Matthew Glavach, Ph.D.

long-forgotten collection of twenty-five children's songs recorded by Donny and Marie Osmond during their teen years has resurfaced — and is now being used to help children learn to read. The recordings, originally created as a family service project, were recently rediscovered by reading researcher Matthew Glavach, Ph.D., founder of [StrugglingReaders.com](https://strugglingreaders.com).

In the late 1970s, Donny (20) and Marie (18) recorded a set of children's songs with lyrics written from controlled early-reader vocabulary lists. Every word sung was also a word designed to strengthen reading skills. Their brothers contributed to the music, making the project a full Osmond family collaboration. Circumstances prevented the program from reaching the market, and the tapes were set aside.

Decades later, while leading [StrugglingReaders.com](https://strugglingreaders.com), Glavach located the original cassettes. “I realized these weren't just recordings,” he said. “They were a missing piece of the Osmond legacy — created to help children, but never released.”

Glavach rebuilt the program using current reading research, including rhythmic timing activities shown to support dyslexic learners. The restored material is now part of They Sing Into Reading, a modern literacy resource blending rhythm, melody, and reading.

“This project began as an act of service from the Osmond family,” Glavach said. “Now it can finally fulfill its original purpose — supporting children's reading.”

About [StrugglingReaders.com](https://strugglingreaders.com)

[StrugglingReaders.com](https://strugglingreaders.com) is a reading research and development company founded by Matthew Glavach, Ph.D., specializing in innovative literacy solutions for [struggling readers](https://strugglingreaders.com).

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