

## FESTIVAL: DIWALI (The Festival of Lights)

As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, the people of India get ready to celebrate a holiday called Diwali, or "The Festival of Lights." It is held on the night of the full moon of late October or early November. In northern India, people set up a row of lamps outside their home to remember the brave and legendary King Rama. For Indians living in the south, it is a time to invite Laxmi, the goddess of wealth and beauty, to visit their homes. Like many people in the world, Indians want to make the best of the darker days of winter. One way to celebrate is to play music! All kinds of music and dance can be seen and heard throughout India, and in community centers in the United States. During Diwali, you might hear children singing "Aeyaya balano sakkad" along with a melody instrument ( a sitar, for example) and a percussion instrument (tabla). The words in this song tell about how it is important for young people to be good students so they grow up to be successful adults.

### Aeyaya balano sakkad

Words by Smt. CHANDRA BHAT  
Music by M.B. SRINIVASAN  
English Lyrics by JOHN HIGGINS

#### Refrain

Ay - yah - yah bah - lah - noh sahk - kah - d  
Come child - ren, come child - ren, gath - er near,

#### (last time) Fine Verse

soo - dee - chah - ree - ayk koon - k. Sahn - kah - tah - toom - kah -  
Come hear the se - crets of life. ‡ Child - hood is a gift, it's pass - ing by so

jee - vah - nah - nee - tee, jee - vah - nah - nee - tee,  
fast, we can never ap - pre - ci - ate, some - thing we real - ly should cel - e - brate,

Sahn - kah - tah - toom - kah - jee - vah - nah - nee - tee,  
child - hood is a gift, it's pass - ing by so fast, we can nev - er ap - pre - ci - ate.

Sah - fahl - jah - vah - chahk - chohl - chee ree - tee,  
This is the time when we have the pow - er to learn and grow.

Sah - fahl - jah - vah - chahk - chohl - chee ree - tee,  
this is the time when we all can build on the things we know.

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