

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

Fifth Edition

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Research

Linking Music and Math

The U.S. Department of Education reviewed data on more than 25,000 secondary school students. Researchers found that students with high levels of involvement in instrumental music in middle school and high school showed "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12."

"Involvement in the Arts and Human Development: General Involvement and Intensive Involvement in Music and Theater Arts." Los Angeles, CA: The Imagination Project at UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, 1999.

Xylophone



Materials:

Drinking Glasses
Water
Wooden Spoon

Directions:

You can use drinking glasses that are the same size or a variety of different sizes. Help your child fill each with a different amount of water. Allow your child to play the xylophone by gently tapping each glass with the wooden spoon. How does the amount of water in each glass change the sound? Do glasses with the most water sound highest or lowest?



Find your favorite storytime songs on the CD Fairy Tale Favorites: Storytime Songs for Children at www.storytimesongs.com! Now available on CD OR download songs individually at www.musicnet.com. Search for: Fairy Tale Favorites!

Make a Flannel Board Story



Materials:

Scissors
Felt Squares in a variety of colors

Directions:

Enhance your child's favorite songs with a flannel board story. Cut characters out of felt (ie the Three Little Pigs, Old MacDonald's farm animals) and use them to act out the song while singing or listening to a recording. Having a hands-on flannel board story adds another element to songs and makes the story more concrete. Allow your child to play with the pieces independently. They will be able to retell the story or make up their own stories and songs with their favorite characters!

Tip #1: *Not a great artist? Find free clip art on the internet that you can trace to create your favorite characters or look at the free coloring pages on www.storytimesongs.com for ideas!*

Tip #2: *If you don't have a flannel board, try using the back of your upholstered couch!*

Write your own song...

This month's challenge:

Theme: Rain and Rainbows

Choose the tune of a popular children's song (i.e. ABCs, Old MacDonald) and write your own words about the rain or finding rainbows. Submit your lyrics and the name of the chosen tune to newsletter@storytimesongs.com. The most creative response will be published in the next newsletter and the winner will receive a free copy of Fairy Tale Favorites: Storytime Songs for Children, a CD of 12 songs inspired by popular children's fairy tales.

Visit the Library!

Visit your local library to check out children's CDs or music from around the world! Help your child develop an appreciation for other cultures and musical styles!

Save your Recyclables!

Start saving small boxes, paper towel tubes, egg cartons, oatmeal boxes, water bottles, and plastic containers of all shapes and sizes (ie juice or yogurt containers). You will be amazed at how much you can save in a short period of time! These items that we often throw away are the foundation for an afternoon of creativity! Add markers, dried beans, and pipe cleaners to the mix and create your own homemade band. Round oatmeal containers become drums, water bottles become shakers, the possibilities are endless! Encourage your child's creativity (and your own!) as you create!



Mailing tube shaker, oatmeal drum, water bottle shaker



Jingle shaker (egg carton, wooden chopstick, pipe cleaners, and jingle bells)

Contact Us

Please send questions or comments to shauna@storytimesongs.com or visit www.storytimesongs.com for more information and free activities!