

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

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Research

Music and the arts provide a positive outlet for creativity and personal expression. Participation in music and arts programs encourages cooperation and teamwork and provides an atmosphere where every child is a success. A study at Auburn University found significant increases in the self-concept of at-risk children who were participating in an arts program that included music, movement, drama, and art.

N.H. Barry, Project ARISE: Meeting the needs of disadvantaged students through the arts, Auburn University, 1992

Paper Plate Shakers

Materials:

Two paper plates
Dried Beans
Stapler



Directions:

Set one paper plate down on the table. Place a handful of beans on the plate. Set the other plate face down on the first plate. Staple the two plates together around the edges. Make sure the staples are close enough together so that the beans cannot fall out! Decorate the outside of the plates with markers or stickers. Shake and have fun!

Reader's Challenge

This month's challenge:

Theme: Going on vacation

Choose the tune of a popular children's song (i.e. ABCs, Old MacDonald) and write your own words about going on vacation. Submit your lyrics and the name of the chosen tune to newsletter@storytimesongs.com. The most creative response will be published in the next Storytime Songs 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 – great for long car rides!

Try these ideas at home!

Band in a Box



Create your very own band in a box! Find a cardboard box to hold your child's musical instruments. Decorate the box with paint, markers or stickers. Fill the box with children's instruments, homemade instruments (instructions for many can be found at www.storytimesongs.com) and gather items from around your home that can be included! Old wooden spoons, wooden blocks, and recycled items make great instruments! Challenge your child to find items around the house that make new and different sounds!

Guessing Game



Now that you have a Band in a Box, you can play the musical instrument guessing game. Have your child close his or her eyes while you play one of the instruments and see if he or she can guess which one it is! Talk about how the instrument sounds. Is it loud or soft? Does it sound like metal or wood? Take turns playing and guessing!

Tell me a story!



Use your collection of instruments to add sound effects and music to your child's favorite story or make up your own musical adventures!

Scat-a-long!



Replace the words in your child's favorite song with silly syllables! Instead of Old MacDonald had a farm, sing, "Boop dah, dee doop, dah dee bee." Encourage your child to sing along for a silly scat-a-long. Once you have had practice scattling, try making up your own scats and play copy-cat scat! Take turns singing your own made up tune: "Boop, dee, dah." See if your child or the children in your classroom can imitate what you sang. Now let your child make up a scat for you to imitate!

Instrument Book



Just as you would teach your child to learn to identify different animals and animal sounds, teach your child about musical instruments! Find books at the library with pictures of musical instruments or make your own book. Cut out pictures from magazines, print free clip art off the internet, or draw your own pictures! Check out CDs from the library so your child can HEAR how the instruments sound while learning their names!

Contact Us

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



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