

# Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

First Edition

October 2005

## Research

A research team exploring the link between music and intelligence reported that music training is far superior to computer instruction in dramatically enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills, the skills necessary for learning math and science. Thirty-four preschool children receiving private piano lessons were compared with 20 preschool children receiving private computer lessons, and 24 preschool children receiving no private instruction. Spatial-temporal tests were administered before and after receiving private lessons. The children receiving private piano lessons showed a significant improvement in their spatial-temporal test scores. Students taking private computer instruction and the control group showed no significant improvement.

Shaw, G.L., Rauscher, F.H., Levine, L.J., Wright, E.L., Dennis W.R., and Newcomb, R.L. "Music training causes long-term enhancement of preschool children's spatial-temporal reasoning," Neurological Research, Vol. 19, February 1997.

## Sleeping, Sleeping...

**Directions:** Chant or make up your own tune and sing the following words:

*Sleeping, sleeping,*

*All the children are sleeping.*

*And when they woke up they were frogs!*

Help children pretend to sleep during the song and then allow them to act out the animal or idea. Encourage pretend play and abstract thinking by replacing the underlined word with animals, actions, and more!

## Reader's Challenge:

### Write your own song

**Theme:** Getting dressed

Choose the tune of a popular children's song (i.e. ABCs, Old MacDonald) and write your own words. Submit your name, address, lyrics, and the name of the tune to [newsletter@storytimesongs.com](mailto:newsletter@storytimesongs.com). The winning response will be published in the next newsletter and the winner will receive a copy of *Fairy Tale Favorites: Storytime Songs for Children* by Shauna Tominey, a CD of 12 songs inspired by popular children's fairy tales. Listen to excerpts at [www.storytimesongs.com](http://www.storytimesongs.com)

## Self-Esteem

Every experience that you share with your child that gives them a chance to feel successful builds their self-esteem. Music allows many opportunities to play games where everybody works together and everybody has fun. Play cooperative musical chairs or pretend to be an orchestra and build your child's confidence.

## Cooperative Musical Chairs

### Materials:

5 floor mats or large paper cut-outs  
Music (CD or cassette tape)

### Directions:

Have a teacher, parent or older child play and pause the music. When the music plays, everybody dance around the room. When the music stops, everybody freeze and place one foot on a mat. When the music starts again, continue dancing and remove one of the mats. Continue the game until there is only one mat left. Before playing the game, discuss the importance of team work and cooperation.

## Conduct an Orchestra

Play this game with your child at home or with a group of children in the classroom.

### Materials:

Baton (wooden spoon, stick, or dowel)  
Instruments for each orchestra member

### Directions:

Let each child choose an instrument. You can use homemade instruments or pots and wooden spoons. Designate one person to be the conductor. When the conductor waves the baton quickly, follow by playing the instruments quickly. When the conductor waves the baton slowly, play instruments slowly. When the conductor sets the baton down, everybody freeze. Allow each child a chance to be the conductor.

## Musical Instruments Paper Towel Tube Kazoo

### Materials:

Paper towel tube  
Wax paper  
Rubber band  
Markers



### Directions:

Use markers to color and decorate the paper towel tube. Cut a five-inch square piece of wax paper. Use the rubber band to secure the wax paper over one end of the paper towel tube. Hum into the open end of the kazoo.

## Shakers



### Materials:

Container with lid  
(ex: plastic bottle, box)  
Filler material  
(ex: beans, pasta, oatmeal, rice)

### Directions:

Fill the container with the filler material and decorate the outside. Seal securely and shake! Every filler will make a different sound!

## Submit Your Ideas!

If you have music activities or ideas that you would like to share with parents and educators in the next newsletter, please submit them via e-mail to:  
[newsletter@storytimesongs.com](mailto:newsletter@storytimesongs.com)

## Contact Us

Please send questions or comments to [shauna@storytimesongs.com](mailto:shauna@storytimesongs.com) or visit [www.storytimesongs.com](http://www.storytimesongs.com) for more information.