

# Storytime Songs Newsletter

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## Research

Visit [www.storytimesongs.com](http://www.storytimesongs.com) and click on "Music Research" for links to the National Music Association for Music Education Facts and Figures AND links to your state's curriculum standards for music and the arts.

## Welcome Songs



Create an interactive introduction to any circle time activity. Sing a circle time song that invites children to participate by moving their bodies, clapping, stomping, and more! Use this example or create your own!

## Clap and Sing Hello!

Tune: The Farmer in the Dell

*We clap and sing hello. We clap and sing hello. With our friends at circle time, we clap and sing hello.*

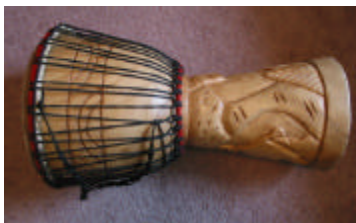
*We wave and sing hello...  
We stomp and sing hello...*

## Reader's Challenge

### Theme: Rainy Weather

Choose the tune of a popular children's song (i.e. ABCs, Old MacDonald) and write your own words about rainy weather. Submit your lyrics and the name of the chosen tune to [newsletter@storytimesongs.com](mailto: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.

## Drumming



Use your classroom drum, an upside-down plastic container, laundry hamper, or even a sturdy box for this activity! This activity is great for at home or in the classroom.

### Activity #1: Learning names and syllables.

Pass the drum around the circle and help each child drum the syllables of their name. (ie "Char-lie," "Juan," "Me-lin-da"). Count the number of syllables together. Other children can clap along and help count while waiting for their turn. Some children will be able to easily differentiate between syllables, but for others it will take a lot of practice!

### Activity #2: Feeling the beat.

March around the room together while a teacher beats the drum. When beating slowly, have children move slowly. When beating quickly, have children move more quickly. This activity helps practice listening skills and following directions! Let children take turns beating the drum. They will enjoy beating quickly and slowly and watching their friends move to their beat.

### Activity #3: Body beats.

Like activity #2, this game helps children learn to listen to different rhythms and follow directions. Choose a child to start as the drummer. Let the drummer choose a body movement (ie clap hands, shake head). As the drummer beats the drum, help the other children clap or shake quickly or slowly along with the beating of the drum! Pass the drum around and let the next drummer pick a new movement! This is a great way to get inside exercise on a rainy day!

## Wooden Blocks

### Materials:

Two wooden blocks  
Sandpaper  
Stapler



### Directions:

Staple sandpaper to one side of each wooden block. Clap and rub the blocks together for a great percussion sound. Help children play them along with their favorite songs!

## Castanets

### Materials:

Cardboard  
Glue  
2 large plastic buttons



### Directions:

Cut a strip of thick cardboard (1"x6"). Help children fold the cardboard strips in half. Glue the large buttons on the inside ends of the cardboard. Now squeeze the cardboard ends together to make a clicking sound!

***Looking for MORE activities,  
MORE music games, and MORE  
homemade instruments?***

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## 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 and free activities!

