

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

Welcome Edition

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Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Storytime Songs newsletter! This publication is a free service to parents and educators who strive to enrich the lives of children around them through music. Music can be a wonderful learning tool. Exposure to music has been linked to spatial and mathematical abilities and much more. Just as importantly, music is FUN! Whether we consider ourselves to be musicians or not, we all listen to music in the car or sing in the shower.

We retain:

10% of what we read;

20% of what we hear;

30% of what we see;

50% of what we hear and see at the same time;

70% of what we hear, see, and say; and

90% of what we hear, see, say, and do.

Fauth, B. (1990). Linking the visual arts with drama, movement, and dance for the young child. In W.J. Sinson (Ed.) *Moving and learning for the young child* (pp. 159-187). Reston, VA: AAHPERD.

As parents and educators, we can use music in fun and educational ways to enrich learning experiences by combining what children hear, see, say, and do.

Reader's Challenge

Every edition of the Storytime Songs Newsletter will feature a reader's challenge. Readers are encouraged to be creative and put their musical abilities to the test!

Reader's Challenge:

Write your own song

Theme: Washing Your Hands

Choose the tune of a popular children's song (i.e. ABCs, Old MacDonald) and write your own words about hand-washing. Submit your lyrics and the name of the tune to newsletter@storytimesongs.com.

Responses will be included in the next edition of the newsletter!

Dancing

Fast, slow, and freeze!

Materials: Your favorite music!

Directions (fast and slow): Choose a slow song and a fast song. Talk with your child or with the children in your classroom about familiar things that move slowly (turtles, slime) and things that move quickly (rabbits, cars). Move and dance to the music in different ways, paying attention to the speed (also called the tempo).

Directions (freeze): Practice following directions and listening skills by playing the freeze game! Designate someone (parent, teacher, or older child) to start and stop the music. When the music stops, everybody "freeze!" Start dancing again when the music resumes.

Crafts and Activities

Streamer Baton



Materials:

Paper towel tube

Colored tissue paper or ribbon

Tape

Scissors

Directions:

Cut tissue paper or ribbon into long strips. Tape the tissue paper onto each end of the paper towel tube to make a colorful baton - perfect for dancing!

Listening

The simplest and maybe most important way that you can share music with your child is just by listening. Share a wide variety of music with children of *all* ages. Talk about what you hear - is the music fast or slow, happy or sad, loud or soft? By sharing and listening, you can help your child develop a lifelong appreciation for music.

Musical Instruments

Paper Plate Tambourine

Materials:

Paper plate

Hole punch

String

Scissors

Bells

Directions:

Use scissors to cut a hole in the center of the paper plate. Use the hole punch to punch several holes around the outside of the plate. Thread a small piece of string through each hole and tie bells to the paper plate. Decorate with stickers or markers. Shake, jingle, and have fun!



Literacy

Add "doing" and "hearing" to reading during storytime. Collect items from the kitchen that make different sounds (wooden spoons, metal bowls) and use them to create sound effects to go along with your favorite stories.

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

What's new at Storytime Songs...

Resources

Visit our new resources page with links to educational music websites for parents and educators or suggest your favorite music website to be included on our list!

Contact Us

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

For more free music activities and homemade musical instrument ideas, visit: www.storytimesongs.com/activities.html

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