

# Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

Seventh Edition

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## Research

The benefits of music on intellectual development are apparent even at young ages. A University of California (Irvine) study showed that after eight months of keyboard lessons, preschoolers showed a 46% boost in their spatial reasoning IQ.

Rauscher, J. Shaw, Levine, Ky and Wright, "Music and Spatial Task Performance: A Causal Relationship," University of California, Irvine, 1994

## Dancing Scarves



Get out your dancing scarves and have a dance party! If you don't have dancing scarves, make your own! Visit the fabric department in your favorite craft store and buy leftover scraps of material. Cut them into large squares and rectangles.

## Reader's Challenge

Thank you to Lisa for her submission to last month's challenge!

**Tune:** Old MacDonald Had a Farm

**Theme:** "Spring Has Come"

Spring has come into our yard,

With color all around.

I see flowers in our yard,

With color all around.

There are red ones here,

And yellow ones there.

Here some orange, there some white,

Everywhere a lovely sight.

Spring has come into our yard,

With color all around.

## This month's challenge:

**Theme:** Animals/Pets

Choose the tune of a popular children's song and write your own words about animals/pets. Submit your lyrics and the name of the tune to newsletter@storytimesongs.com. A 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 children's fairy tales.

## Paper Plate Skate



**Materials:** 2 paper plates per participant

**Directions:** Put one paper plate under each foot and skate around the room to your favorite songs! This activity encourages awareness of others and self control. Put cones or other obstacles around the room and try to maneuver through a homemade obstacle course! Paper plate skate works best on a linoleum floor or thin carpet.

## Musical Hugs

This is a great game to play with a small group of children or even with your family at home! Play the "Freeze Game" with your favorite dance music! Designate someone to "pause" and "play" the music. Everyone dances until the music stops. When the music is paused, find a partner to hug! Continue dancing when the music resumes. This variation of musical chairs encourages positive interactions!

## Classical Corner

Looking for suggestions of classical music to share with your children or classroom? Try these fun ideas! Check out CDs from your local library.

### **Carnival of Animals by Camille Saint-Saens**

These short pieces are written to sound like animals! Try listening to each for the first time and see if you and your child can guess which animal is represented.

### **Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev**

Each friend that you meet along the way is represented by a different instrument!

### **The Nutcracker by Peter Tchaikovsky**

These pieces are great to dance to! And you may recognize many from the ballet or from watching Fantasia. Get out your dancing scarves and move!

**For more classical suggestions, visit**  
[www.storytimesongs.com/FAQ.html](http://www.storytimesongs.com/FAQ.html)

## Bullroarer



**Materials:**

Paint stick

String

Drill (or a hammer and nail)\*

Markers or paint

**Directions:**

Decorate your paint stick with markers or paint. Drill a hole at one end of the paint stick or use the hammer and nail to punch a small hole. Thread a two-foot piece of string through the hole and tie securely. Hold the end of the string and swing the bullroarer around over your head. The bullroarer will spin and make a helicopter-like sound.

**\*This activity requires adult assistance.**

**Parent tip:** This activity needs a lot of space! Be sure to try it in a large room or even outside.

**Teacher tip:** This Australian instrument is a great way to introduce world cultures into the classroom!

## What's new at...



Storytime Songs has recently added a "Parent Corner." Ask your question about music and child development or read questions submitted by others! Visit [www.storytimesongs.com](http://www.storytimesongs.com) and click on the "Parent Corner" link on the left side of the page.

## 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!