

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

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Research

A study performed by physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants. The study found that 66% of music majors who applied to medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. 44% of biochemistry majors were admitted.

"The Case for Music in the Schools," Phi Delta Kappan, February 1994

Roller Bells



Materials:

Oatmeal/cylindrical container with lid
Bells or dried beans
Tape or glue

Directions:

Help your child put a few bells or a handful of beans in the oatmeal container. Seal the lid with tape or glue. Let your child decorate the outside with markers, crayons, or stickers. You now have a rolling shaker! Children can roll it back and forth to one another while listening to music. Infants and toddlers can also enjoy crawling or toddling after this musical toy!

Name that Hum

Help children develop their music ability through listening. Listening helps children develop a sense of rhythm and pitch. Hum (or whistle) a familiar tune and see if they can guess what it is! If they have trouble, add a few words for clues. Let children take turns humming too!

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

www.storytimesongs.com

Transition Songs

Transitions are often the most challenging part of a child's day, whether at home or in the classroom. Parents and teachers can use songs to help ease the stress of transitions! Singing the same song everyday at the time of a particular transition will add consistency to the routine and help children prepare for the change in activity.

Try this! Choose a familiar tune (Mary had a Little Lamb or Twinkle, Twinkle) and add your own words! Here are a few examples!

Transition: Going to school
Tune: Old MacDonald

Now it's time to go to school. E-I-E-I-O.
I like reading and art too. E-I-E-I-O.
With a good friend here and a good friend there. Here a friend, there a friend, everywhere at school a friend.
Now it's time to go to school. E-I-E-I-O.

Transition: Taking a nap
Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're sleepy and you know it give a yawn.
If you're sleepy and you know it give a yawn.
If you're sleepy and you know it then your face will surely show it.
If you're sleepy and you know it give a yawn.

Transition: Putting on socks and shoes
Tune: London Bridges

Time to put on socks and shoes, socks and shoes, socks and shoes.
Time to put on socks and shoes. I can do it!

Reader's Challenge

Theme: Going to school
Choose the tune of a popular children's song (i.e. ABCs, Old MacDonald) and write your own words about going to school. Submit your lyrics and the name of the chosen tune to 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.

Roll us a Song!

Materials:

Square box
Paper
Markers or crayons
Tape or glue



Directions:

Help your child draw or color six pictures representing their favorite songs. Glue or tape each picture to one side of the square box. Let your child roll the song block to choose what song to sing next!

***Teacher tip:** This is a variation on using a songbook (visit www.storytimesongs.com for songbook instructions). If you are short on time, a song block is a great way to involve children in selecting songs.

***Fun tip:** Put bells inside your song block to hear a fun jingle every time your child chooses a song!

Music and Mood



Turn on music in the large motor area of your classroom or in your living room at home! Invite your child or the children in your classroom to dance. Notice how their dancing will differ when listening to soft and slow music versus loud and fast music. Try listening to many different styles and watch children develop an important skill – their imagination!

Contact Us

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

