

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

Third Edition

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Research

How can learning music now help my child in the future? Not only are you helping your child develop a lifelong love for music, you are also helping your child's intellectual development. Students with coursework/experience in music performance and music appreciation scored higher on the SAT: students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math, and students in music appreciation scored 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on the math, than did students with no arts participation.

College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers. Princeton, NJ: The College Entrance Examination Board, 2001.

Family Traditions

Share your favorite stories and songs with your children this holiday season. Or make up your own holiday songs and start new traditions!

Reader's Challenge

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

Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Theme: Going to Bed

Come and sit on my lap,
It's time for you to take a nap.
Go to bed and rest your head
Close your eyes and go away
To a dream place that's far away
When you wake, you will see
Oh how rested you will be!

This month's challenge:

Theme: Winter

Choose the tune of a popular children's song (i.e. ABCs, Old MacDonald) and write your own words about winter. 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.

Musical Simon Says

Materials:

2-3 different musical instruments*
(bells, drum, pots and pans)
**snapping, clapping, stomping, can be used in place of actual instruments*

Directions:

Take turns being the "leader." Assign different actions to each instrument. For example, when the leader shakes the bells, everyone shakes their heads. When the leader beats the drum, everyone stomps their feet. Make the game more challenging by adding more instruments.

Adapt this game for toddlers:

Try using one instrument to start. When the leader shakes the bells, everybody jumps. When the leader stops, everybody freezes. The goal of the game, when playing with toddlers, is to help them begin to listen and translate hearing music or sounds into moving their bodies.

Adapt this game for infants:

Infants are not yet at a developmental level where they can fully understand the concept of Musical Simon Says. They can, however, learn to associate hearing sounds with body movements. Help infants kick their legs or move their arms as they hear a drum beat or bells ringing. Attach bells to their feet so that they can learn to create music and sound by kicking their feet.

The Perfect Stocking Stuffer!

Fairy Tale Favorites:
Storytime Songs for Children 

This CD contains fun songs inspired by all of your favorite fairy tales! An original gift for children of all ages - perfect for storytime, bedtime, and long car rides! Order your copy of Fairy Tale Favorites now and receive FREE SHIPPING on orders of two or more CDs from now until Dec. 25th!

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Find the Gingerbread Man!



Materials:

Scissors
Paper
Favorite holiday music

Directions:

Cut out 10, 20, or even 30 small gingerbread men out of paper. Hide them all around the room. Turn on "The Gingerbread Man" or your favorite holiday song and challenge children to find as many as they can before the song ends. This is a great game for one child or groups of children! Make the search a team effort, rather than a competition, so everybody wins!

Jingle Bell Friends



Materials:

pipe cleaners
jingle bells

Directions:

Twist pipe cleaners into bugs, animals, or holiday shapes. Add bells to the ends of legs, arms, etc. to make musical friends. Shake them along to your favorite songs.

Fun tip: Make a bracelet out of jingle bells and pipe cleaners that your child can wear around their wrist or ankle as they dance!

Contact Us

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