

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

Sixth Edition

March 2006

Research

Early exposure to music can lead to the development of skills related to reading and math! Researchers have found that lessons on songbells (a standard classroom instrument) led to significant improvement of spatial-temporal scores for three- and four-year-olds.

Gromko, J.E., and Poorman, A.S. (1998) The effect of music training on preschooler's spatial-temporal task performance. Journal of Research in Music Education, 46, 173-181.

Rhythm Sticks



Materials:

2 Paper towel tubes
Newspaper
Duct tape
Markers

Directions:

Tear strips of newspaper and stuff them into the paper towel tubes. Fill the tubes completely with newspaper and seal the ends with tape. Use markers or stickers to decorate the outside of the rhythm sticks. Beat them together to make music!

*Try playing "Copy Cat!" Take turns leading and following. The leader uses their rhythm sticks to tap out a pattern and the copy cat tries to remember and imitate it!

Write your own song...

This month's challenge:

Theme: Spring time, flowers

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

Introduction to Notes!

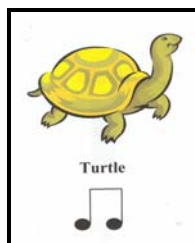
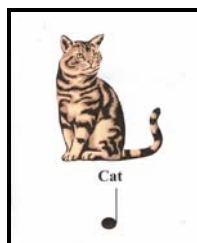
Help your child develop early literacy skills and learn to understand music notes with these easy games!

Clapping Syllables

Help your child clap the syllables in their name (ie "Kris-ten" = clap-clap, "John" = clap).

Rhythm Cards

Make your own rhythm cards or print the free cards on the "Music Games" page at Storytime Songs. Help your child count the number of syllables in the name of the animal (or object) on the card. Notice that the number of syllables is the same as the number of notes on the page! (Cat = 1 note, Turtle = 2 notes). Clap or play your favorite homemade instrument in time while looking at the cards and chanting "Cat, cat, cat."



Write Your Own Song

Now that your child understands how notes and syllables relate to one another. Help them write their own song out of notes! Let your child choose their own combination of notes and chant, clap, or tap the words that correspond to the notes (ie "Cat, cat, turtle, cat, turtle, turtle, cat").



To print a variety of rhythm cards and learn more about reading notes, visit www.storytimesongs.com/musicgames

Egg Shaker Matching Game



Materials:

Plastic Eggs
Fillers (ie pennies, pasta, dried beans)

Directions:

Fill pairs of plastic eggs with different types of fillers (ie two eggs with pasta, two eggs with beans, two eggs with pennies*). Use the eggs as shakers and play them along with your favorite music, or mix up the eggs and try to match them by sound!

*Parent tip: Choose items that are easily cleaned up in case the eggs are opened!

Bring music outside!

If the weather is nice, try taking music outside! Lead a marching band around the playground or play your homemade instruments in the backyard!

What's new at...



Storytime Songs has recently added new pages containing guitar chords for popular children's songs, more music games, and research on the benefits of music education, as well as links to your state's music curriculum standards! Check back regularly for other new updates!

Contact Us

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