

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

Eighth Edition

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Research

Music provides a positive outlet for your child's interests and energies. Secondary students who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime and current use of all substances (alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs).

Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Report. Reported in Houston Chronicle, January 1998.

Paper Bag Maracas

Materials:

Paper Bag
Dried Beans
Markers
String



Directions: Decorate the outside of your paper bag with markers or paint. When dry, place a handful of dried beans inside the bag. Tie the bag securely shut with string. Have children hold the closed end of the bag and shake away!

Jingle Bell Art

Materials:

Box
Paper
Paint
Jingle Bells



Directions: Have you ever painted with marbles? This is a fun and easy musical variation on marble painting. Put your paper at the bottom of the box. Dab paint onto your paper. Place jingle bell(s) into the box. Shake the box from side to side and listen to the music you create while the jingle bells roll around and spread the paint. Enjoy your musical art!

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

www.storytimesongs.com

Musical Playground

Cornell University has enhanced their early childhood classrooms with music through singing, chanting, multi-cultural instruments and music, and a "Soundscape" on their playground! The "Soundscape" includes a giant marimba, jumbo chimes, bells, an enormous drum and more! What ways have you found to enhance your child's musical experience at home or in the classroom?

Here's one suggestion:

Use your old wind chimes to bring hands-on music to your yard or playground. Hang wind chimes at a level where children can reach them. They can watch and listen as the wind blows through them or create the music themselves by blowing on the wind chime or using their hands or a wooden spoon to make sound.

If you would like to read more about Cornell's "Soundscape," you can find the article at www.storytimesongs.com. Click on "Parent Corner."

If you would like to share a suggestion with other parents or teachers on ways that you have musically enhanced your home or classroom, please send it to:

newsletter@storytimesongs.com

Responses will be posted on Storytime Song's "Parent Corner" page.

Reader's Challenge

This month's challenge:

Theme: My Favorite Things

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

Jingle Bell Bracelets

Materials:

Pipe cleaners
Jingle bells



Directions: String three or four bells onto a pipe cleaner. Take a second pipe cleaner and twist it around the first to hold the bells in place. Twist the ends together to form a bracelet. Hold bracelets in your hand or wear them around your wrists or ankles!

Jingle Jive!



Directions: Now that you have your jingle bell bracelets ready, let's try the jingle jive! Have children put their bracelets on their wrists and ankles and dance around. Try stomping, skipping, hopping, and moving in slow motion. Take turns conducting with your body! Watch as the conductor shakes a foot, an arm, or their whole body and try to follow along! This game is sure to make everyone laugh and it's a great activity to work on gross motor skills, coordination, following directions, turn-taking, and more!

Contact Us

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

