

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

Second Edition

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Research

Researchers in Leipzig, Germany found that brain scans of musicians showed larger planum temporale than those of non-musicians (a region in the brain related to reading skills). They also found that musicians had a thicker corpus callosum than non-musicians (the bundle of nerve fibers connected the two halves of the brain). These findings were especially true in musicians who had begun music training before age seven.

Schlag, G., Jancke, L., Huang, Y., and Steinmetz, H. (1994). In vivo morphometry of interhemispheric asymmetry and connectivity in musicians. In I. Deliège (Ed.), Proceedings of the 3rd international conference for music perception and cognition (pp. 417-418). Liege, Belgium.

Starting Early...

Exposing young children to music at an early age can help them develop a lifelong enjoyment and love for music. Listen to a wide variety of music, dance, make instruments, and more. Remember to make music fun!

Reader's Challenge?

After two months of challenges, not a single entry has been submitted -so odds are pretty good that if you submit a response to this month's challenge, you could be the winner of a FREE children's CD. Listen to excerpts of Fairy Tale Favorites: Storytime Songs for Children at www.storytimesongs.com to see if it's worth it! If you would like a chance to win a free CD and an opportunity to test out your creativity, try this month's challenge!

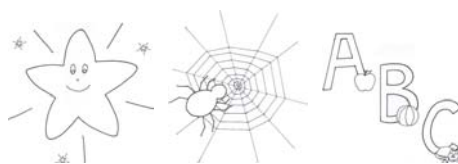
Write Your Own Song

Theme: Going to Bed/Nap

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

Make a Song Book

A song book is a book of pictures that represent songs. For example, a picture of a star could represent the song, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Draw or cut out pictures that represent your child's favorite songs. Put the pages together in a binder for your child or classroom. Children will quickly learn to recognize their favorite songs. This is a great way to introduce early literacy concepts. Children learn that pictures represent songs as letters represent words on a page.



Download these free coloring pages to make song cards and more at www.storytimesongs.com. Watch for more pictures coming soon!

Your Favorite Story



Add sound effects to the reading, telling, or singing of your favorite stories! Use homemade musical instruments or items from your kitchen.

- Hit wooden sticks together to represent the "trip-traps" of the "Three Billy Goats Gruff."
- Clang metal lids together when the Big Bad Wolf appears in "The Three Little Pigs" or "Little Red Riding Hood."
- Shake jingle bell sticks when the Fairy Godmother appears in "Cinderella."
- What other sounds can you add to your favorite stories?

Jingle Bell Sticks

Materials:

Wooden chopstick or pencil
Pipe cleaner
Bells

Directions:

String two or three bells onto a pipe cleaner. Wrap the pipe cleaner around the wooden chopstick or pencil and twist each end together to secure them. Shake, jingle, and have fun!



Music Maps

Music maps are a fun way to incorporate music into art activities.

Materials:

Paper
Crayons or markers
Your favorite music

Directions:

On your marks, get set, draw! Turn on your favorite music and scribble along. Try drawing along to fast songs and slow songs. Do you notice any differences in your drawings?



Let the music you choose inspire your artwork!

Submit Your Ideas!

If you have music activities or ideas that you would like to share with parents and educators in the next newsletter, please submit them via e-mail to: newsletter@storytimesongs.com

Contact Us

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