

Storytime Songs Newsletter

www.storytimesongs.com by Shauna Tominey

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This edition of the Storytime Songs Newsletter features a collection of favorite activities and homemade instruments from previous newsletters. For additional resources, please visit www.storytimesongs.com!

Fast, slow, and freeze!



Materials: Your favorite music!

Directions (fast and slow): Choose a slow song and a fast song. Talk with your child or with the children in your classroom about familiar things that move slowly (turtles, slime) and things that move quickly (rabbits, cars). Move and dance to the music in different ways, paying attention to the speed (also called the tempo).

Directions (freeze): Practice following directions and listening skills by playing the freeze game! Designate someone (parent, teacher, or older child) to start and stop the music. When the music stops, everybody "freeze!" Start dancing again when the music resumes.

Jingle Bell Sticks

Materials:

A wooden chopstick,
pencil or dowel
Bells
Pipe cleaner



Directions:

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

Conduct an Orchestra

Play this game with your child at home or with a group of children in the classroom.

Materials:

Baton (wooden spoon, stick, or dowel)
Instruments for each orchestra member

Directions:

Let each child choose an instrument. You can use homemade instruments or pots and wooden spoons. Designate one person to be the conductor. When the conductor waves the baton quickly, follow by playing the instruments quickly. When the conductor waves the baton slowly, play instruments slowly. When the conductor sets the baton down, everybody freeze. Allow each child a turn as conductor.

Make a Songbook

A songbook 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 of your child's favorite songs. Put the pages together in a binder for your child or classroom. This is a great way to introduce early literacy concepts. Children learn that pictures represent songs as letters represent words!



Download free coloring pages to make song cards at www.storytimesongs.com or make your own!

Glue coloring pages onto a square box that you can roll to choose the next song!



Sleeping, Sleeping

Directions:

Chant or make up your own tune and sing the following words:

Sleeping, sleeping,
All the children are sleeping.
And when they woke up they were frogs!

Encourage children to pretend to sleep during the song and then allow them to act out the animal or idea. Replace the underlined word with animals, actions, and more!

Kazoo

Materials:

Paper towel tube
Wax paper
Rubber band
Markers



Directions:

Use markers to decorate the paper towel tube. Cut a 5-inch square piece of wax paper. Use the rubber band to secure the wax paper over one end of the paper towel tube. Hum into the open end of the kazoo.

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.

