Sing, Sing a Storytime: Integrating Music into your Storytimes

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Why add music?

1. Music activates the same pathways we use for memory and linguistic development.
2. Listening to music primes those pathways to be used.
3. Singing is one of the 5 Best Practices to develop early literacy from Every Child Ready to Read.
4. Helps balance your storytime and keeps kids engaged.
5. Music transcends language and culture – reaches everyone.
6. Music is AWESOME!
What to do?

1. Sing songs.
2. Sing books.
3. Play music during gathering and craft times.
Mix up your music

1. A capella singing – classic tunes + new words = theme-specific song.
2. Accompany with rhythm instrument [hands, drum, sticks, etc]
3. Accompany with an instrument [Ukulele, Guitar, Piano, etc…] If you play an instrument – even one not “suited” to storytime – play it for your audience.
4. Sing along to a CD.
5. Music & movement go hand-in-hand – use props like scarves, shaker eggs, bean bags, parachutes, ribbons, etc…
Laurie Berkner

Generic: This is how I do it * Shake your Body Down * I Really Love to Dance * Popcorn Calling Me (scarves)

Theme-based:
Rocketship Run * I know a chicken (shakey eggs)
General: Hands are for Clapping * Alabama, Mississippi (shakey eggs) * Silly Dance Contest * Finger Dance
Caspar Babypants

General: Run, Baby, Run *

Theme: Butterfly Driving a Truck * Them Bones
More favorites…

- Raffi: Shake my Sillies Out
- Stuart Stotts & Tom Pease: I’m so Big
- Tom Chapin
- Karma Kids Yoga: Little Yoga clock
- Miss Nina
- Mr. Eric & Mr. Michael
1. Find the right book.
2. Does it have a musical recording already? Option: play it while presenting the book & singing along.
3. Sing the words. Use the “official tune,” or your own.
4. Add a song to a book, ex Happy Birthday…
5. Use a book as a visual aid to accompany a song.
6. Embed the scanned book and recorded song in a power point presentation, stand to the side, and sign the book while singing!
Sing along with a recording

You are my Sunshine by Blake Hoena
Sing along with a recording or not?

A *Soup Opera* by Jim Gill
Sing along with a recording or not?

May There Always Be Sunshine by Jim Gill
Sing along with a recording or not?

*We are the Dinosaurs* by Laurie Berkner
Sing the “official tune” or your own…

*Pete the Cat: I Love my White Shoes* by James Dean & Eric Litwin

Bonus: replay with instrument and act out…

More Pete: *Four Groovy Buttons, Rockin’ in my School Shoes*
Rhythmic reading – clap along

Dancing Feet by Lindsey Craig

Rah, Rah, Radishes! By April Pulley Sayre
Other Books I like to sing...

1. The Library Book, by Tom Chapin
2. My House, Byron Barton
3. Itsy-Bitsy Spider, by Iza Trapani
4. Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, by Eileen Christelow
5. I Love Animals, by Flora McDonald
6. I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More! By Karen Beaumont
7. Any dinosaur book – Dem Bones
8. Any classic song made into a book
My Storytime Format

1. Warm up song (CD) sing & move
2. Hello chant – a capella or with rhythm instrument
3. Transition to book song – ukulele
4. 1st Book
5. Letter of the Day Activities
6. 2nd Book
7. Song
8. Song/Flannel/Fingerplay
9. Transition to final book
10. 3rd Book
11. See you soon
12. Craft project
13. Announcement slide with plenty of music embedded for craft time.
Power Point is AWESOME

1. Use it to plan, organize & store your storytimes.
2. **Embed songs directly into the power point.**
3. If you project onto a screen/wall, it will provide song lyrics, literacy tips, and other information to caregivers.
4. List “schedule” on the sidebar with “Now” and “Up Next” indicators.
5. Embed scanned books…
Benefits of Power Point

• Slides are interchangeable – just mix and match
• Easy to see what themes you’ve used when
• No forgetting something or going out of order
• No messy, space-consuming paper storage
• No fumbling with CDs
• Pictures of crafts included
• Easy to add an “Evaluation Slide” post storytime
• If projected: caregivers have the words – no paper copies needed
• If projected: include early literacy games
• If projected: announcement slide keeps caregivers informed
Actual Storytimes
Closing thoughts

• “Without music, life would be a mistake.” – Friedrich Nietzsche
• “Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” — Plato
• “Where words fail, music speaks.” — Hans Christian Andersen
• “Music can change the world because it can change people.” — Bono
• “If music be the food of love, play on.” — William Shakespeare