Music Soothes the Savage (Kid) Soul
Wednesday, April 9, 4:00 pm

Sharing music with young children is an important part of their early literacy development – singing is even highlighted as one of the Every Child Ready to Read initiative’s five early literacy practices (along with talking, reading, writing, and playing).

Want to incorporate more music into your library’s children’s services and programs? Here are some ideas from the CRT Community Literacy Committee.

Music Programming Ideas

Host a Preschool Dance Party: Set aside 30 – 45 minutes, pick some favorite children’s and kid-friendly popular songs, and make room for dancing!

Parachute Play with Music: Move your parachute up and down to match the pace of the music. This is an especially fun activity for lapsit storytimes with very young children. For older children, add something on the parachute to bounce, such as five stuffed monkeys for the song “Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed” or a medium-sized Nerf ball for the song “Up, Up, and Away!”

Incorporate children’s music CDs into storytime for gathering music or movement activity. This is a good opportunity to showcase CDs from your library’s children’s music collection.

Include musical instruments such as egg shakers, tambourines, and maracas in storytime to add to the fun! You can make your own musical instruments and accessories for storytime use or as take-home activity ideas. For example, create “rhythm sticks” using straws and ribbons that children can wave while singing and moving to music. Make shakers using small plastic water bottles, beans, and glitter – be sure to secure the lids with glue and/or tape!

Music Resource Links

Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) Bell Awards

According to CLEL, the newly created CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are “an annual recognition of five high-quality picture books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children.” One book is selected for each of the five Every Child Ready to Ready early literacy practices (talk, sing, read, write, play). To see the winning “sing” title, as well as nominated titles and shortlists from which the winner was chosen, visit: www.crel.org/content/bell-awards

CLEL has also published a list of “Silver Bells” featuring picture books from the last 25 years that represent the same qualities the CLEL Bell Awards Selection Committee considers exemplary. Five books were selected for each of the five early literacy practices.

Award-winning children’s music artist Nancy Stewart offers free song downloads and associated activities as well as music and early literacy information at her website: www.nancymusic.com

Zooglobble is a children’s music review blog with the tagline “Kids Music Worth Sharing.” Visit www.zooglobble.com for a large collection of reviews, links to music and video clips, interviews, etc.
This list of suggested books compiled by the Community Literacy Committee features titles that foster music appreciation and early literacy through elements such as melody and rhythm. Note that many of these books are “sing-able”!

- *Baby Danced the Polka* - Karen Beaumont
- *I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More* - Karen Beaumont
- *Ten in the Den* - John Butler
- *If You’re Happy and You Know It* + other song picture books - Jane Cabrera
- *Today Is Monday* - Eric Carle
- *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* - Eileen Christelow
- *Dancing Feet!* - Lindsey Craig
- *Cows in the Kitchen* - June Crebbin
- *Wiggle* - Doreen Cronin
- *De Colores* - David Diaz
- *Rap a Tap Tap: Here’s Bojangles – Think of That* - Leo & Diane Dillon
- *This Jazz Man* - Karen Ehrhardt
- *If You’re a Monster and You Know It* - Rebecca Emberley & Ed Emberley
- *She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain* - Jonathan Emmett
- *Barnyard Banter* - Denise Fleming
- *The First Day of Winter* - Denise Fleming
- *Canta, Rana, Canta / Sing, Froggie, Sing* - Carolyn Dee Flores
- *Animal Boogie* - Debbie Harter
- *Down by the Station* - Will Hillenbrand
- *Fiddle-I-Fee* - Will Hillenbrand
- *The Seals on the Bus* - Lenny Hort
- *There Was a Tree* - Rachel Isadora
- *The Babies on the Bus* - Karen Katz
- *Frog Went A-Courting* - John Langstaff
- *I Got Two Dogs* - John Lithgow
- *I’m a Manatee* - John Lithgow
- *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* + other *Pete* titles - Eric Litwin
- *I Love You! A Bushel and a Peck* - Frank Loesser
- *The Crooky Pokey!* - Ethan Long
- *Sing-Along Song* - JoAnn Early Macken
- *The Man from the Land of Fandango* - Margaret Mahy
- *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands* - Kadir Nelson
- *Hush, Little Baby* - Brian Pinkney
- *The Farmer in the Dell* - Ilse Plum
- *Hip Hop Dog* - Chris Raschka
- *Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop* - Lisa Shulman
- *There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* - Simms Taback
- *Itsy Bitsy Spider* - Iza Trapani
- *The Happy Hedgehog Band* - Martin Waddell
- *The Bear Went Over the Mountain* - Rosemary Wells
- *Jazz Baby* - Lisa Wheeler
- *Little White Duck* - Walt Whippo
**Storytime Music**

If you are looking for children’s music recordings to play during storytime and other children’s programs, below are some of the committee members’ favorite children’s music artists.

- Caspar Babypants
- Laurie Berkner
- Cathy Bollinger
- Rachel Buchman
- Jim Gill
- Greg & Steve
- Jack Hartman
- Sara Hickman
- Imagination Movers
- Ella Jenkins
- The Kerplunks
- Bari Koral
- Milkshake
- Elizabeth Mitchell
- The Old Town School of Folk Music (Children’s Music Class Faculty)
- José-Luis Orozco
- Hap Palmer
- Raffi
- Joe Scruggs
- Pete Seeger
- Stuart Stotts

**Community Literacy Committee Members**

- Corine Barberena, Committee Chair, Irving Public Library
- Carole Chandler, Lewisville Public Library
- Julie Conner, Plano Public Library
- Ronda Griffin, Fort Worth ISD
- Lynne Hamilton, Stephenville ISD
- Sally Meyers, Tom Green County Library System
- Carolyn Patton, Fort Worth ISD

“Once upon a time, wasn’t singing a part of everyday life as much as talking, physical exercise, and religion? Our distant ancestors, wherever they were in this world, sang while pounding grain, paddling canoes, or walking long journeys. Can we begin to make our lives once more all of a piece? Finding the right songs and singing them over and over is a way to start. And when one person taps out a beat, while another leads into the melody, or when three people discover a harmony they never knew existed, or a crowd joins in on a chorus as though to raise the ceiling a few feet higher, then they also know there is hope for the world.” Pete Seeger, 1919 – 2014