

Bluegrass for Children

An Introduction for Parents and Children as to why music enhances a child's quality provides education benefit and makes music making a life long journey.



**Presented as an educational supplement to Bluegrass for Children Workshop
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Research on the relationship of music and other academic areas

There is a growing body of evidence that arts instruction can significantly strengthen students' academic performance. The latest research, involving first and second graders at two Pawtucket RI public elementary schools, produced strong evidence that sequential, skill building instruction in arts and music, integrated with the rest of the curriculum, can greatly improve children's performance in reading and math. The study was a collaborative effort of The Music School (in Providence RI), arts specialists in the Pawtucket school system, and the Kodaly Center of America.

Music/Literacy Connection

Music can motivate children to read. Music is a potential tool for helping build successful readers. Music and reading go together because music celebrates language. Music is universal. Through music, children experience the wholeness of language. Language naturally has rhythm and melody. Children bring this language with them when they read. Shared, choral and echo reading are effective ways to help children connect songs to print. Children are naturally drawn to the rhythm, rhyme and tempo of music. Using music to teach reading draws on the natural rhythm and rhyme of language. The music/reading connection helps to develop a love for reading. Within group music experiences, children learn as they read, write, comprehend and express ideas. Many literacy concepts are taught through the use of music including: book concepts, phonemic awareness, sight, vocabulary, concepts of print, comprehension, fluency, sense of story and sequence, phonics.

Music/Math Connection

The connections between the two seemingly disparate subjects of mathematics and music go far beyond Pythagoras' concept of the harmony of the spheres. Understanding the math and music connections can take the child on a journey through these relationships, viewing them through the lenses of nature, rhythm, tone, tuning, and composition: from the chanting and drumming of ancient cultures to computers who compose; from the evolution of tuning to the magical construction of musical instruments; from the golden proportion to polyrhythm; from fractal music to Einstein and his violin.

To find out more try these web links: <http://www.edutunes.com/research.pdf>
<http://www.menc.org/publication/articles/academic/pawtuck.htm>
http://reading.ecb.org/downloads/art_Music_and_Reading.pdf
<http://www.songsforteaching.com/>
<http://www.sound-connections.org.uk/resources/musicmanifestoreport2.pdf>

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Same Old Tale the Crow Told Me

It's the same old tale that the crow told me
Way down yonder by the sycamore tree.
It's the same old tale that the crow told me
Way down yonder by the sycamore tree.

Tom cat sittin' on a bale of hay
Bull dog sittin' on the ground
I went and pinched the bull dog's tail
And they went around and around and around
They went around and around

Bull frog sittin' on a lily pad
Lookin' up at the sky
Lily pad broke and he fell in
Got water all in his eye
Got water all in his eye

Just found out why ham's so high
Only two hind legs on a hog, what's why
Cross it with an octopus and ham 'll come down
Got hog in the middle and ham all around
Hog in the middle and ham all around.



The Arkansas Traveler

Oh, once upon a time in Arkansas,
An old man sat in his little cabin door
And fiddled at a tune that he liked to hear,
A jolly old tune that he played by ear.
It was raining hard, but the fiddler didn't care,
He sawed away at the popular air,
Tho' his rooftree leaked like a waterfall,
That didn't seem to bother the man at all.

A traveler was riding by that day,
And stopped to hear him a-practicing away;
The cabin was a-float and his feet were wet,
But still the old man didn't seem to fret.
So the stranger said "Now the way it seems to me,"
You'd better mend your roof," said he.
But the old man said as he played away,
"I couldn't mend it now, it's a rainy day."

The traveler replied, "That's all quite true,
But this, I think, is the thing to do;
Get busy on a day that is fair and bright,
Then patch the old roof till it's good and tight."
But the old man kept on a-playing at his reel,
And tapped the ground with his leathery heel.
"Get along," said he, "for you give me a pain;
My cabin never leaks when it doesn't rain."



The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night

The fox went out on a chilly night
He prayed for the moon to give him light,
For he'd many a mile to go that night
Before he reached the town-o! Town-o! town-o!
For he had many a mile to go that night
Before he reached the town-o.

Well, he ran 'til he came to a great big pen,
Where the ducks and the geese were kept therein
"Said a couple of you gonna grease my chin
Before I leave this town-o!" Town-o! town-o!

He grabbed the gray goose by his neck,
And flung a duck across his back;
He did not mind the "Quack, quack, quack!"
And their legs all dangling down-o! Down-o! down-o!

Then old Mother Flipper Flopper jumped out of bed,
Out of the window she popped her head,
Crying, "John, John! The gray goose is gone
And the fox is on the town-o! Town-o! town-o!"

Then John he went to the top of the hill,
Blew his horn both loud and shrill.
The fox he said, "I'd better run with my kill--
They'll soon be on my trail-o! Trail-o! trail-o!"

The fox, he ran till he came to his den,
And there were the little ones, eight, nine, ten,
They said "Daddy, better go back again,
It must be a mighty fine town-o! Town-o! town-o!"

Then the fox and his wife without any strife,
Cut up the goose with a fork and knife.
They never had such a supper in their life,
And the little ones chewed on the bones-o! Bones-o! bones-o!

She'll Be Coming Around The Mountain

She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes.

Toot toot!

She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes.

Toot toot!

She'll be coming 'round the mountain

She'll be coming 'round the mountain

She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes.

Toot toot!

She'll be driving six white horses when she comes.

Whoa back!

Oh, we'll all go out to meet her when she comes.

Hi Babe!

Well, the dogs'll start to holler when she comes.

Woof woof!

She'll be pettin' two pink piggies when she comes.

Snort snort!

We'll all have chicken and dumplings when she comes.

Yum yum!

She will have to sleep with Grandma when she comes.

Snore snore!

Goodnight!

The Frog Song

Way down south in the yankity yank
A bull frog jumped from bank to bank
Just because he'd nothin' better fore to do
He stubbed his toe and he fell in the water
You could hear him holler for a mile and a quarter
Just because he'd nothin' more to do.

This is a shorten version of a long folk tales of a frog that ultimately meets his demise due to an over inflated ego. The story continues with the spreading of the verse above to such an extent that the entire community (that is moms, dads, children, farm animals, barns) has gathered at the local country store wildly singing the song. The frog happens by and upon hearing *his* song puffs up until he explodes. Now there is nothing left but the memory of the Frog and his song.



Want to know more about the benefits of music making?

Me & Martha's web site has some useful resources and links.

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