

Growing Wisconsin Readers:
How Music Builds
Literacy, Connection, and Joy
In Young Children
(and in those who sing with them.)

Presented by
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Growing Wisconsin Readers Building Literacy with Music

Purpose

Questions for this session

- What are the connections between music and literacy?
- How can we encourage love of reading and love of libraries?
- Why is music so good for the brain?

Goals for the children we work with:

- To learn authentically and deeply.
- To feel safe and connected to those around them.
- To learn in ways that fit their individual learning styles.
- To be ready to read.
- To expand their experiences and knowledge of the world.
- To be creative, imaginative, and flexible in their thinking.
- To be kind, compassionate, and joyful.
- To play and have fun
- To love singing and making music together.

Music can help to reach each of these goals.

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Getting Started

Activities

Singing Warm-Ups

- Animal Sounds (Snake, Bee, Humming, Puppy Pant)
- Singing Voice, Whisper, Talking, Shouting
- Lion
- Alien
- Nutcracker
- Letters
- Dog and Cat

Songs

1. I Wonder If _____ Is Here.
2. I Know Your Face, but I Don't Know Your Name.
3. How'd You Do?
4. 8 Hugs a Day.
5. Won't You Be My Partner
6. Jambo

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Connect

Activities

- Zipper Songs
- Connection to Other Units

Songs

1. I'm So Big
2. Rainbow
3. It's a Very Good Day
4. We All Need More Kindness in this World

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Repeat

- Same stories explored at length, rather than a new one every day.
- Songs with repetitive parts.

Songs

1. Dog In School
2. Rainbow
3. I'm So Big

Songs that can be easily adapted.

1. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
2. Are You Sleeping?
3. Row your Boat.
4. Farmer in the Dell
5. Mary had a little lamb
6. London Bridge
7. Mulberry Bush
8. This Old Man
9. Skip to My Lou
10. Muffin Man
11. If You're Happy
12. Bear Went Over the Mountain
13. Eency Weency Spider
14. Ants Go Marching
15. Old MacDonald
16. Happy Birthday

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Move

Songs

1. Zoom Zoom Zoom
2. Mi Cuerpo
3. Know Your Oaks

Feel

Songs

1. I Can Jump
2. I Can Show It On My Face
3. Five Little Monkeys
4. Won't You Be My Partner
5. Love Grows
6. We All Need More Kindness in this World.

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Read

Understandings

- Music lays a strong foundation for literacy through rhythm, rhyme, listening, and patterning.
- Exposure to and familiarity with other languages is an important skill for the future.
- Our brains are wired to learn through story.

Activities

- Letter Sounds
- Rhyming

Songs

1. Dog In School
2. How Do I Know? (I Read It In a Book)
3. Favorite Books
4. Gingerbread Man
5. Little Red Hen
6. Down by the Bay
7. Mi Cuerpo

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Play/Create

Understandings

- Play is critical for brain, personality, and social development.
- Creativity is a central skill for success in life.
- When children choose, their engagement rises.

Activities

- Nonsense songs
- Silly motions
- Instruments

Songs

1. Willaby Wallaby Woo
2. Down by the Bay
3. Percussion Round
4. Singing in the Rain
5. Be Bananas

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Storytelling

Understandings

- Storytelling is critical for children to expand their imaginations.
- Storytelling helps children to make sense of their world.
- Storytelling engages deep parts of the brain.
- Mirror neurons create connection between listener and teller.

Activities

- Storytelling relies on voice, face, gesture, and imagination.
- Start with stories that are short.
- Use participation where possible.
- Only tell stories that you like.
- Children may want you to repeat stories.
- It's good for them to hear different versions of the same story.
- Use books, storytelling, pictures, puppets, drawings and dramatic play to explore stories.
- Do storytelling activities with children that include voice, face, gesture, and imagination.

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Resources

BOOKS

Armstrong, Thomas *Multiple Intelligence in the Classroom*
Hamilton, Martha and Mitch Weiss. *Children Tell Stories*.
Katonah, N.Y.: Yellow Moon Press, 1992.
Jensen, Eric *Arts with the Brain in Mind*
Levitin, Daniel. *This is Your Brain on Music*
Page, Nick *Music as a Way of Knowing*
Dee Hansen, Elaine Bernstorff, and Gayle M. Stube *The
Music and Literary Connection*
Haven, Kendall *Story Proof* Libraries Unlimited, 2008

WEB SITES

<http://perpetualpreschool.com/>
<http://www.artsedge.org/>
<http://www.preschoollearningonline.com/>
<http://www.everythingpreschool.com/>
www.preschoolrainbow.org
www.songsforteaching.com
www.cmnonline.org
<http://www.mgol.net/public/articles/dendrites.pdf>
<http://www.jackstreet.com/jackstreet/WMUS.Honig.cfm>

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At the Library

*Always something for you.
Always something for me.
Always something for everyone.
At the library.*

Everything you're needin'
For light summer readin'
Dime store novels and magazines.
Any kind of topic
All the latest gossip.
'bout the names of kings and queens.

If you have a question
Got up to the desk and
Friendly librarians will help you out.
Fact or fiction
No matter which one
Find out what it's all about.

You can read a story
You can read a story
You can read a story while you're here.
You can hear a story
You can hear a story
You can hear a story while you're here.

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