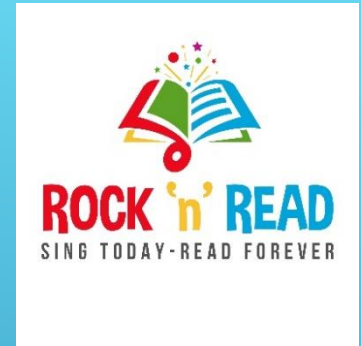




Having Fun Yet?



Yes! With Music Activities for Infants to 5

How to Prepare Young Brains for Reading
MNAFEE Conference April 2024

Richard Erickson &
Ron Gustafson
Teddy Bear Band
teddybearband.com

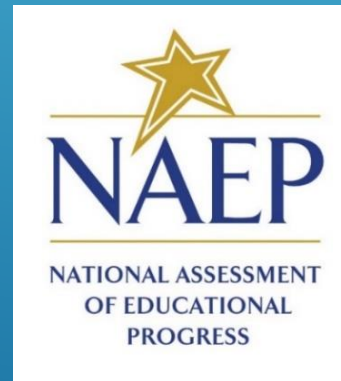
Ann C. Kay
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Songs

1. Hello Everybody
 2. Singing Baby's Name
 3. Whenever Baby...
 4. Bumping Up & Down In My Little Red Wagon
 5. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
 6. Open Shut Them
 7. Na Na La La song
 8. Five Little Ducks, Slightly revised, i.e. Three Little Ducks, etc.
(Workshop production budget only allowed for hiring 3 little ducks & their mother)
 9. The Hip, The Hip, The Hippopotamus
 10. Miss Mary Mack
 11. Rock Your Baby! Ann (avail. via YouTube/TBB)
 12. Two Little Blue Jays, Two Little Robins (fingerplays)
 13. Baby Bumblebee & Baby Dinosaur* (fingerplay/songs)
 14. Hickory Dickory Dock (with metronome)
 15. Mary Had a Little Lamb (slightly revised)
 16. RE: Pitch matching/singing notes (and/or Na Na La La again*)
 17. Itsy Bitsy Spider
 18. Jump Around! (TBB Song)
 19. Five Little Monkeys*
 20. Teddy Bear Band Game*
 21. If You're Happy & You Know It*
- (* Optional, Extra Credit)

Note: ECFE classroom teaching staff are encouraged to involve parents in these songs as part of Circle Time/Parent-Child interactions & encourage parents to do at home with children!

Why are 1/3 of 4th and 8th graders
unable to read at a basic level?



2022

Brain development

Underlying **biology** Sound Processing in the Brain

determines language ability



3 yr

predicts early literacy



5 yr

predicts future struggles in school



10-12 yr

White-Schwach et al. (2015) PLoS Biol

Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory
Northwestern University, Illinois

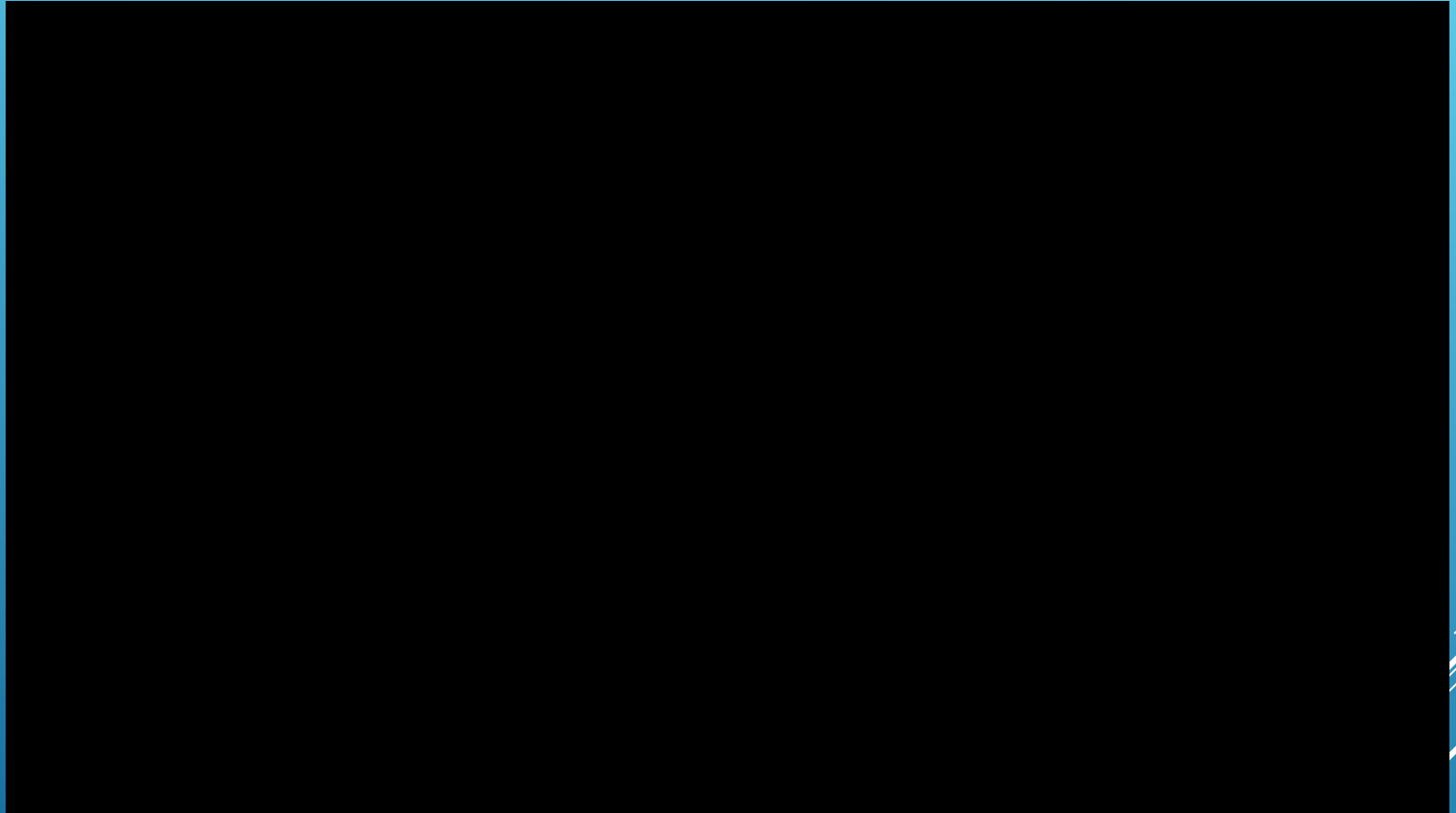
Sound processing begins in womb



Sound processing develops more effectively by hearing singing



Singing is inborn and precedes talking



Singing helps develop the brain for language and literacy



- Auditory processing
- Auditory memory
- Neural encoding of speech
- Phonological awareness
- Beat synchronization

Children who *cannot* pat a steady beat are likely to struggle with reading.



Rock Your Baby!

by Ann C. Kay

Mama, rock your baby, rock your baby so sweet,
Sing a song and tap along on baby to the beat.
Daddy, bounce your baby, bounce your baby so sweet,
Dance to the music, put the beat in your feet.

Have your child pat the beat, this is how it trains
A vital neuro network that the brain retains.
Children who sing songs develop smarter brains
That know more words and make greater gains.

So, Mama, rock your baby, rock your baby so sweet,
Sing a song and tap along on baby to the beat.
Daddy, bounce your baby, bounce your baby so sweet,
Dance to the music, put the beat in your feet.



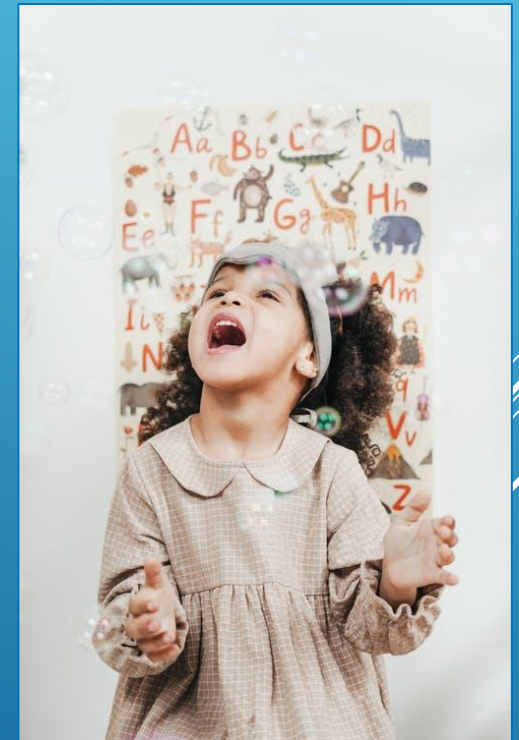
Photo: William
Fortunato/Pexels




Sing your day away!

You are a child's rock star!

- Give directions in rhythm and rhyme: "It's time, it's time, it's time to get in line."
- Sing what you see: "I see Jamal standing by the wall."
- Sing greetings, transitions, and goodbyes



Teach basic music skills

1. Pat a steady beat
 2. Clap the rhythm of the words of a song
 3. Match a pitch
 4. Sing in tune
- 

Feeling the beat

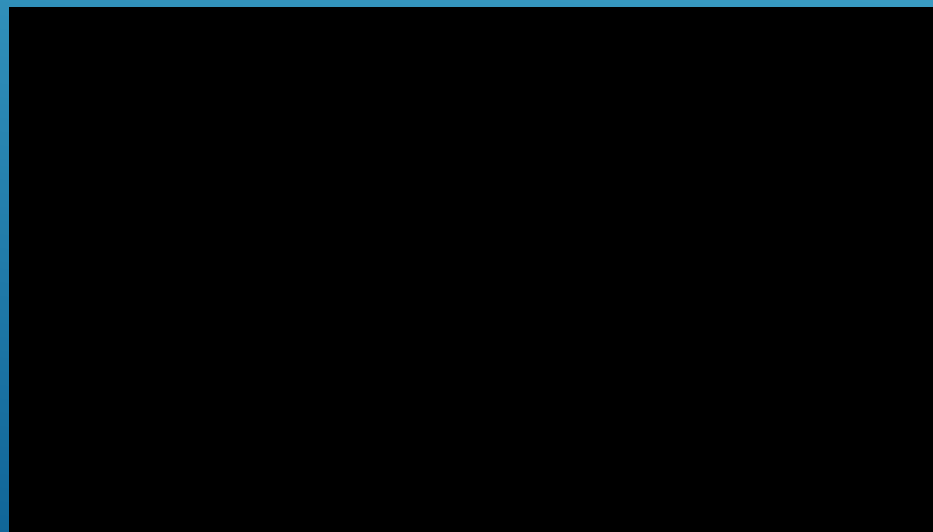


Keeping the beat

10-month-old and 3-year-old



2-year-old with Grandpa



Learning to sing

Imitating and filling in words
18 months



Spontaneous singing
24 months



Singing a song in tune
26 months



Research

Young children are *not* developing music skills.

88% of K and 1st graders could *not* keep a steady beat.

Music skills are easy to develop

3-6 month-olds can start to develop them, and 3-year-olds can be capable singers.



Keep the beat

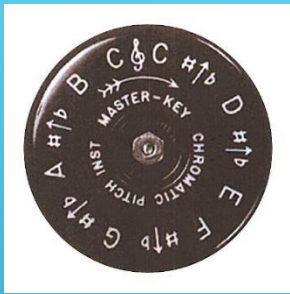


- Free metronome apps <https://youtu.be/l7mFvUI9HjA>
- Choose a steady beat speed (such as 120).
- Have children patting beat with two hands on their laps.
- Choose a faster beat and match. A slower beat.
- Pat beat with two hands on other body parts.
- Chant a poem or sing a song while patting underlying beat.
- While patting, chant a poem or sing a song while alternating between singing out loud and singing inside one's head.

Clap the rhythm

- Clap the rhythm of the words—every syllable
- Alternate between patting the beat and clapping the rhythm





Match the pitch

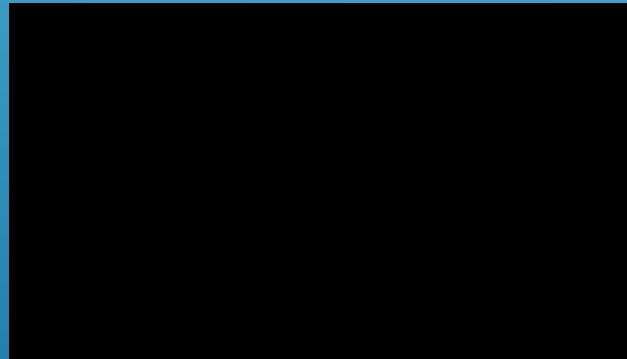
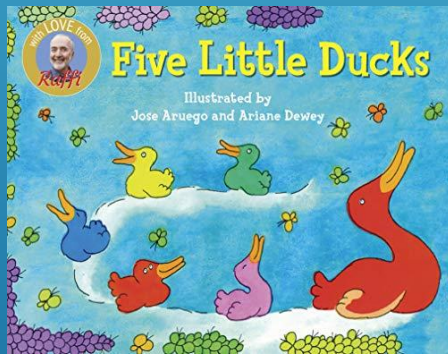
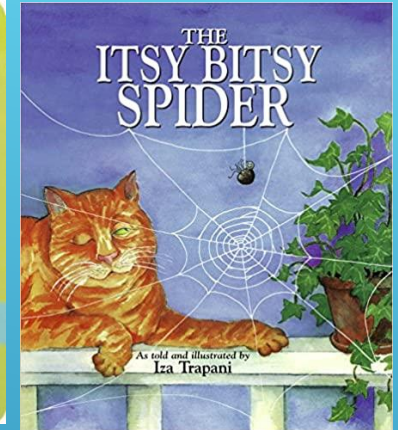
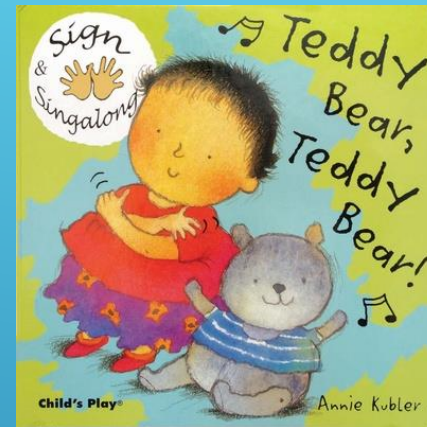
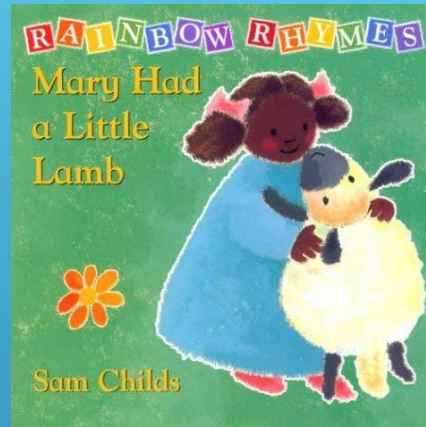
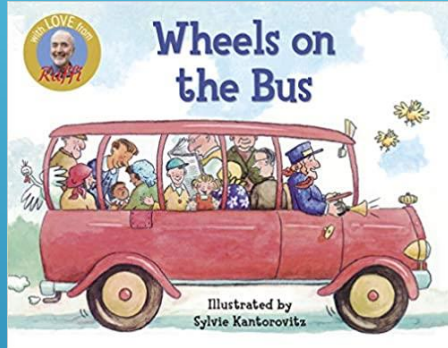
<https://pitchpipe.app/#/>

- Play a pitch. Children try to match singing “loo” or “oo.”
- Play another pitch. Children try to match.
- Play a low pitch (such as low C) and a high pitch (such as A or high C). Ask whether the second pitch is higher or lower than the first. Have them point up if it is higher, down if lower.
- Play a pitch and ask a child who is able to match it to sing it first. Ask the other children to match that child’s voice.

*Note: Young children cannot produce pitches below middle C, so most adults have to sing higher than they are used to so children can match.

Sing nursery rhymes and folk songs

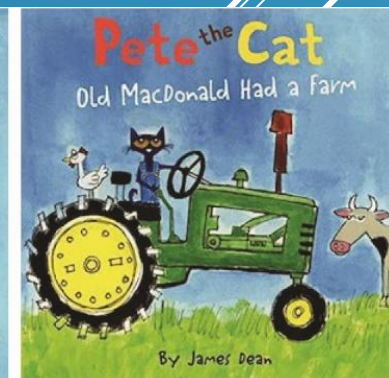
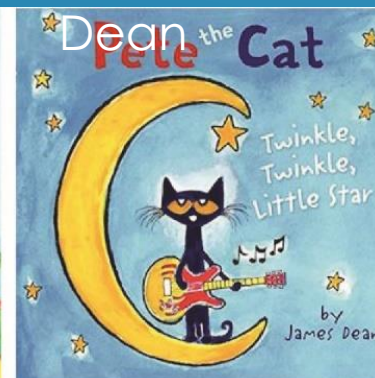
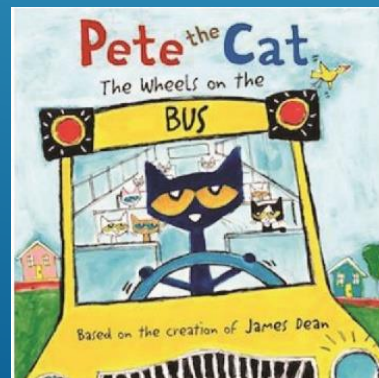
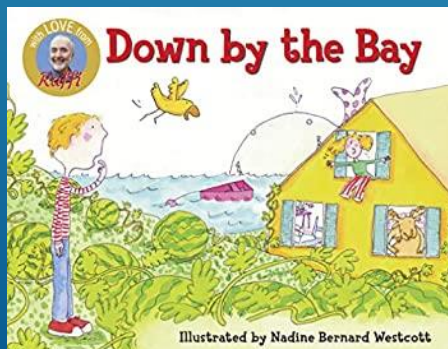
Raffi Songs



Original Pete the Cat books
Eric Litwin and James Dean

<https://youtu.be/IUVgSWsyIE8>

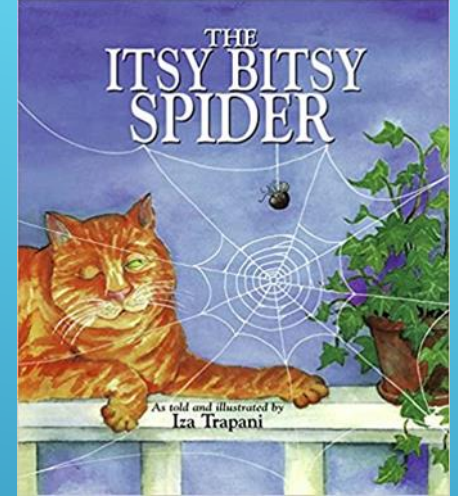
Pete the Cat books James



Chant/read together

The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout.
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain
And the itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again.



1. Keep beat with both hands on lap while saying poem together. Keep beat with both hands on shoulders, head, elbows, etc.
2. Teacher says one phrase, and children echo (always keeping the beat with both hands).
3. Teacher says one phrase, children say next phrase.
4. Half of group says one phrase, then the other half says the next phrase.
5. Children say one phrase out loud, and next phrase inside their heads.

Think a song



Assess basic music skills



Musical Fitness Assessment

Musical fitness is the ability to perform basic music skills

Child's Name

Date

KEEP THE BEAT

1. Open a metronome app: Metronome (Android) TrueMetronome Lite (Apple).
2. Set metronome to 120 beats per minute.
3. Show how to pat with both hands on your lap exactly
At the same time as the metronome click.
4. Ask child to pat the beat with both hands.

Did they match the beat?

No Partly Yes

KEEP THE BEAT WITH A SONG

1. Together, pat a slower beat with both hands on lap and sing "**Twink**-le, **Twink**-le, **lit**-tle **star**, **how** I **won**-der **what** you **are**." Pat on the bold syllables.
2. Ask child to sing it again without you, while patting.

Did they keep the steady beat?

No Partly Yes

CLAP THE RHYTHM

1. Ask child to clap how the words go in "Twinkle" while singing the song, one clap for each syllable.
2. Show them how to clap two times for the first word "Twink-le."
3. Ask child to sing and clap whole song alone.

Did they clap each sound?

No Partly Yes

MATCH A PITCH

1. Use a pitch pipe app, such as Pitch Pipe (Classic), or piano.
2. Play D (on piano, use the D to the right of middle C).
3. Ask child to match the pitch using "loo."

Did they match the pitch?

No Yes

SING IN TUNE

1. Ask child to sing "Twinkle" again.

Did they sing the song in tune?

No Partly Yes

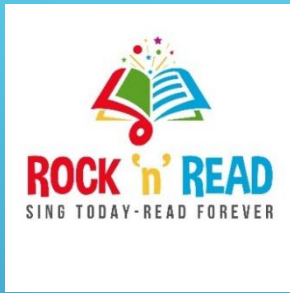


A Song a Day!

Brain Prep for Pre-Readers

50 sequenced lessons for PreK & K





Evidence

2023 First graders' basic music skills were significantly correlated with higher reading achievement.

2023 PreK & K students' music skills improved significantly after daily music-making for 10 weeks using the *A Song a Day* lessons.

“Fit by 5!”

Children who are musically fit by age 5
will be better readers.

- Keep a steady beat.
- Clap the rhythm of the words of a chant or song.
- Match a pitch.
- Sing in tune.

Zap the Gap! Campaign

All children reading proficiently through musical fitness



What's next?

- Workshops with the Teddy Bear Band and Rock 'n' Read Project
- Teddy Bear Band concerts and recordings
- *A Song a Day! Brain Prep for Pre-Readers*—50 lessons for PreK & K
(in publication summer 2024)

