



HELLO PARENTS,

From birth, parents instinctively use music to calm and soothe children, to express love and joy, and to engage and interact with others. Parents can build on these natural instincts by learning how music can influence child development, improve social skills, and benefit children of all ages. Through music, children learn to express themselves, increase literacy skills, develop listening and speech skills, retain information, and visualize, and build their imaginations. Music naturally provides opportunities to practice patterns, math concepts, and symbolic thinking skills. Music patterns, such as the repeating melodies or refrains of a song or the beat of a rhythm, prepare children for a variety of number patterns, such as the sequence of odd and even numbers. In this newsletter, you will find activities that will develop math and literacy skills through music.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

TEN IN THE BED

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child, sing, and do some movements while singing.
- Singing counting songs with your child will make them familiar with words and numbers.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Ten in the Bed" song.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Five Little Monkeys" song.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

FIVE LITTLE DUCKS

MATERIALS:

- 5 rubber ducks
- Large bowl
- Water

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the bowl with water.
- Put the large bowl on the floor in front of your child.
- Put all the rubber ducks in the water and start singing "Five Little Ducks".
- With every new verse of the song take out one rubber duck from the water.
- Continue singing and counting numbers until all the rubber ducks are picked out of the water.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Five Little Ducks" song.

[Click here](#) to listen to "The Ants Go Marching One by One" song.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

HOW MANY BEATS?

MATERIALS:

- Drum or anything you can bang on

DIRECTIONS:

- Play a number of steady beats on the drum and ask your child to count the beats.
- Once your child gives an answer, repeat the activity and count the beats together as you go.
- Once your child is confident, you can take turns being the leader.
- You can also sing a song and your child can bang the drum as you sing together.

[Click here](#) to read "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

COUNTING BY TWOS

MATERIALS:

- [Click here](#) to listen to "Counting Fishes" song
- Fish toys or any other toys you have

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child and learn the song together.
- After learning the song have a discussion about the concept of counting by twos. You may help your child understand and learn how to count by twos.
- Bring the fish toys or any other toys you have, sing the song and start counting the toys together.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

SYLLABLE ACTIVITY

MATERIALS:

- Tambourine or a drum

DIRECTIONS:

- Get a drum or tambourine or make your own.
- Learn "beats" or syllables in a word. For example: say your name and bang your tambourine as you say each beat/syllable.
- Each player will find the number of beats/syllables in their names.
- To make it more challenging put two words together and find the number of beats/syllables in those words.

[Click here](#) to learn more about syllables.



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A TIP FOR TODAY

- Encourage your child to sing throughout the day.
- Sing songs and read books that include numbers.
- Ask questions and have children use the actual song lyrics to help them answer.
- Provide children with musical instruments, puppets, different toys when singing, or retelling stories.