



HELLO PARENTS,

Music and math are usually organized into two separate categories without obvious overlap. However, math and music have many connections. Musical patterns, rhythm, and tempo support mathematical concepts such as sequencing and simple counting. Music creates an order that helps children learn patterns in early math such as repetition and relationships. Musical rhythm can have a positive effect on a child's attention skills. Children who are engaged in music playing and making at a young age will be stronger mathematicians in the future. In this newsletter, we provide musical activities that will help your child enjoy their math studies and strengthen their basic math skills.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

PATTERNS IN LULLABIES

DIRECTIONS:

- Sing lullabies to your child as you hold or play with them.
- Rock with your child while you sing, and pat gently on your child's back so that they can simultaneously hear and feel the patterns in the music.
- If the words themselves make a pattern, your child can also see a pattern in your mouth movements.

[Click here](#) to listen to a collection of lullabies.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

MUSICAL OPPOSITES

MATERIALS:

- Music access

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to listen to "Open Shut Them".
- Invite your child to physically explore the mathematical comparisons of open and shut, big and small, loud and quiet and so on with the music.
- Ask your child what song they would like to sing. Encourage them to follow you singing the song in different tempos, such as fast or slow. You may also change the dynamics and sing loudly or quietly.
- Encourage your child to move freely and dance with the music.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

[Click here](#) to listen to the "Opposites Action and Dance" song.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

PETE THE CAT SCAVENGER HUNT

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper (yellow, red, green, blue and purple)
- Scissors
- Black marker

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to listen to "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons" and encourage your child to sing the song in the story.
- Create Pete's shirt using the yellow construction paper and then cut out four circles in red, green, blue and purple construction paper as pretend buttons. Write 1 to 4 separately on each circle.
- Hide the four circles in the room and tell your child "Pete's buttons have all popped off. Let us help Pete look for his four groovy buttons".
- When your child finds all the buttons, have them place the buttons on the middle line of the shirt by order.
- Encourage your child to retell the story, sing the song and act it out with the props that you made.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

[Click here](#) to listen to "1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive".

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

SHAPES HOKEY POKEY

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to listen to the "Hokey Pokey" and try to sing it with your child.
- Cut different shapes out of the construction paper such as a rectangle, square, circle, triangle, etc.
- Sit with your child and tell them you are going to use the Hokey Pokey music to create a new song: "Shapes Hokey Pokey." For example, you may sing:
Put your circle in,
Put your circle out,
Put your circle in and shake it all about.
Do the hokey pokey and turn yourself around, that's what it's all about!
- Place all the pre-cut shapes on the table and call out one shape.
- Ask your child to pick up the shape being called and do the motions in the song while singing.
- Continue to call out different shapes and encourage your child to do the motions with the song.
- Enjoy the music and learn the shapes.

[Click here](#) for more numbers and counting songs.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

MATH CHARADES

MATERIALS:

- Markers
- Paper
- Jar

DIRECTIONS:

- Talk with your friends or family members about how to make different types of music using body parts. For example, clapping hands, snapping fingers, tapping feet, etc.
- Write each musical movement with the number of repetitions that they will do on separate pieces of paper and place them in the jar. For example, clap your hands 6 times.
- Choose a player to pick a musical movement from the jar.
- The player will read their musical movement for the group, for example: "Clap your hands 6 times" and then act it out.
- The rest of the group must quickly think of a mathematical equation, where the answer to the equation is the number of repetitions.
- For example, if the player claps their hands 6 times, the equation could be 2×3 or $3 + 3$ etc.
- The first person in the group to say an equation will have a turn to be the next one to draw and act.

[Click here](#) for multiplication songs.



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A TIP FOR TODAY

- Encourage your child to sing and feel the patterns in the music.
- While singing a song, emphasize the words that fall on the beat by stomping or clapping on each beat.
- Find musical patterns while chanting rhymes with your child.
- Sing number songs to help your child practice counting forwards or backwards.
- Encourage your child to create music and movement when they are learning math concepts.
- [Click here](#) to watch and listen to math videos.