

# Today's Topics: Music

## Overview and Things to Know:

Music is one of the few activities that use both sides of the brain, the logical and the creative. This means it helps build important brain connections, and the more connections we have, the faster we are able to think. Most importantly though, music is fun! And if your child is having fun, their brain is open to learning.

This open and active brain helps kids develop all kinds of skills for school readiness, particularly in learning language and pre-reading skills. Children who have a good sense of rhythm learn to read and spell more easily. Understanding music can help children think about how parts fit together, similar to how they will think about parts going together when solving a math problem.

Songs can also help kids build routines and remember things in order, important executive functioning skills. Songs are also a great way to learn content, a classic example being the ABC song. Music can also help build social and emotional skills.

## Activities We Did:

- We went on a bear hunt together, practicing call-and-response and building rhythm skills as we engaged in pretend play
- We used shaker eggs and practiced active listening skills while building our sense of musicality and rhythm
- Stations that focused on different music-related themes.
- We played with instruments, exploring and experimenting with different sounds.

## Things to Try at Home:

- Have a family dance party! Each person takes a turn picking the song. It's a fun way to stay active, get musical, and spend time together.
- If you have any instruments at home, allow your child to explore them and show them how you use them (or used to use them!) If you don't have any, check out an instrument from the library! Ask your librarian how.

## Songs to Listen to:

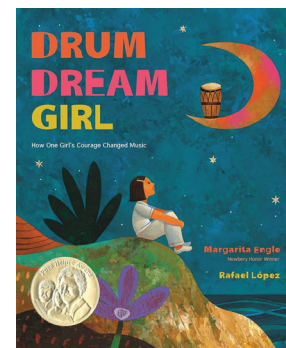
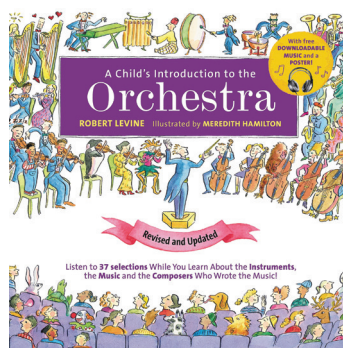
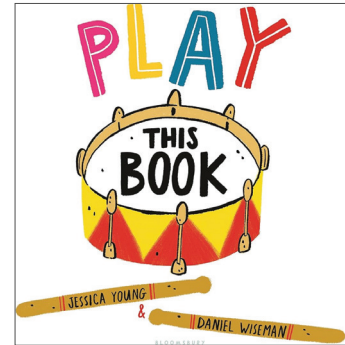
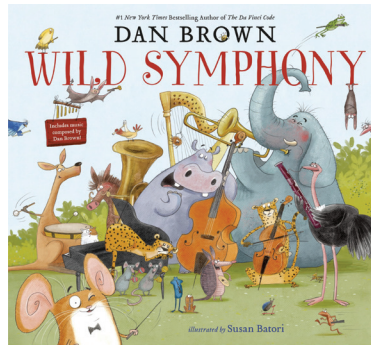
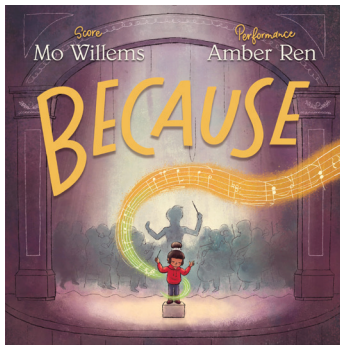
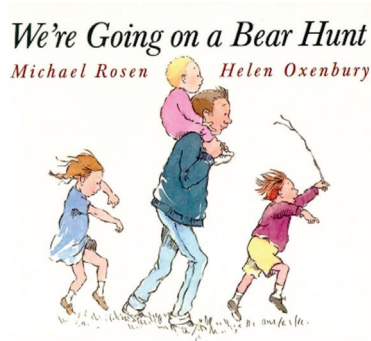
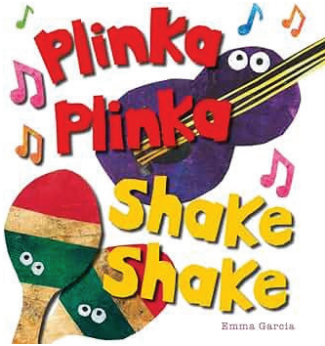
- Peter and the Wolf, along with a book or video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=px8FakwGPDM>)
- Songs for building rhythm: Rhythm Safari by Steve Songs, Rhythm in my Fingers and The Tempo Marches On by Jim Gill, Laughing in Rhythm by Slim Gaillard
- Call and Response Songs: Did You Feed My Cow? and Who Fed the Chickens by Ella Jenkins; The Princess Pat by The Learning Station; Boom Chicka Boom by The Kiboomers

## If You Want to Dive Deeper:

- <https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/the-extraordinary-ways-rhythm-shapes-our-lives/>
- Check out free musical events at the library! <https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/library/programs/music>

# Books to Check Out

## For the Pre-Kindergartners



## For the Grownups

