



MUSIC NEWSLETTER

Winter...Snow days, Winter breaks...I think we may be ready for Spring! Most of our time this winter season was spent going over and bringing back some of exercises and songs from earlier in the year. Because schedules are so broken up, we like to go in the “way back” machine and sing and play some songs that we all know, with a twist. We work on melody by singing “Old MacDonald” like ducks. This helps us listen to pitch and rhythm. We sing the “ABC’s” while playing instruments, and try to keep a steady beat with our song. This may sound simple but playing instruments and singing can be challenging for great musicians, the earlier this skill is worked on the more fruitful the rewards.

January/February

Theme: Winter

Main Song:

This month we worked on 2 songs in our repertoire. “Do Your Ears Hang Low” it’s a great song that has lots of moves and is sung a capella. The other song is “Apples and Bananas” integrating in our older classes reading integration with vowel sounds.

Movement/Fingerplays or “hand stories”

This month’s featured hand story is:

“Do You Ears Hang Low”

Do your ears hang low (arms up like elephant ears)

Do they wobble to and fro (wave ears)

Can you tie them in a knot (hands folded in a knot top of head)

Can you tie them in a bow (fingers splayed top of head)

Can you throw them over your shoulder (arm over shoulder)

Like a continental soldier (salute)

Do your ears hang low (ears again)

Do your ears hang high (arms up)

Do they reach up to the sky (reaching up)

Do they wrinkle when they’re wet (squished wrinkle face)

Do they straighten when they dry (hands flat)
Can you wave them at your neighbor
With an element of flavor (“royal” wave)
Do your ears hang high (arms up)

Instruments:

Some of our friends played rhythm sticks, rhyming and playing together. Some of our friends played shakey eggs while singing “The Grand Old Duke of York” and a really cute rhyming song, “I Am a Fine Musician”. We use instruments to review our core concepts, playing together, piano/forte, legato/staccato. Always a hit, we bring out the boomwhackers, stretchy bands and Djembe (drum).

What can we do at home?

Sing. Play as much music in the house as possible, different genres and artists. Remember, you don’t have to listen to “kids music” all the time, mix it up, get some funk, classical, reggae, blues...have fun with it!

Wondering what to do on a rainy, snowy day? Make instruments to play at home!
If you want to learn more check out

<http://www.howweelearn.com/spectacular-homemade-musical-instruments/>

<http://redtri.com/homemade-instruments/>

Does this sound like so much for your child to take in? Remember, our goal is to put the information out there, there are no tests but a CRAZY amount of fun! Remember if you have any questions or want to share a story, we love to hear how the kids are incorporating music into their daily lives at home!

We would love to hear from you!
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