



Music Before Speech

Children communicate with sounds and gestures before they can speak.

Two components of music that are readily available in primitive parts of the brain are :

1. Rhythm, expressed through movement and actions (beat drums, stamp feet, dance)
2. Tone, expressed in vocal sounds (hunting calls, animal cries, bird calls). Rhythm and tone do not require the higher centers of the brain that are needed for speech and written language.

Baby talk is musical and communicates their thoughts and emotions, and carers naturally respond using a musical language called Parentese with long vowels, repetition and a high pitch. Not only does Parentese attract a baby's attention, it helps a baby's brain "map" sounds they hear to help them learn to speak and understand a language. Singing naturally slows down speech to make it clear.

After age 3, a baby's ability to hear the range of sounds across all languages begins to fall away as he/she tunes in to the specific sounds in the environment. Songs, rhymes and action games prepare a baby's ears, voice and brain for speech, which involves both sides of the brain instead of just the left as in adults. When a child begins to speak, music helps them discover their many voices: talking, whispering, shouting, thinking voice and the one that uses different muscles than the rest is the singing voice.

Book suggestion:

The Genius of Natural Childhood: Secrets of Thriving Children by Sally Goddard

Song Activity:

Going fishing in the deep blue sea
Catching fishes for our tea
Catch another for your brother
One, two, threeeeeee!

Pre-walkers:

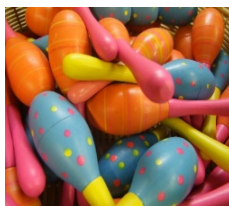
Hold your baby on your lap with one hand under their head facing you.

First set a pulse by lowering their head down and bringing it back up in a slow, controlled, dance-like beat, then sing the song. On the last line, lower their head down further for each number until you bring them all the way back up to chest on threeeeeee!



Walkers:

Use full body movement to set pulse by marching around room while pretending to use a fishing rod that moves down and up.



2. Using blue lycra, all hold on to an edge while seated (this improves hand grip for children and thus penmanship skills!). Sway the Lycra sheet side to side as if it is the sea.

Once song is learnt, add a small fish soft toy in the middle. During count down, lower lycra on 1, further on 2, then all have to move lycra up on "three" to bounce up to the ceiling.





Ramadan

A time for reflection on Allah's beautiful creation

Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him and his family) used to spend many hours alone on Mount Hira in Mecca, contemplating. He reflected on Allah's creation, searching for meaning. The Prophet was concerned about the social injustice in his community, the political unrest between the different tribes in pre-Islamic Arabia and, most importantly, with their ignorance towards one divine guidance.

On Mount Hira, the angel Gabriel appeared before the Prophet asking him to read verses of the Qur'an. These talks about Allah being the Creator of this world. This occasion marks the beginning of the revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad.



Every year, during the month of Ramadan, Muslims around the world celebrate the revelation of the Qur'an. In this month, Muslims are reminded that Allah is One; He is the Creator and the Merciful. The month of Ramadan gives us the opportunity to be mindful of other people's challenges and needs and to contribute towards their happiness and peace.



Parents are encouraged to inspire their children to reflect on Allah's creation, not only in Ramadan but throughout the year, by appreciating the different colours of flowers, the movements of a bird, the sound of diverse animals.

When you and your child go for walk in a green space, ask your child questions like: What can you hear? What can you see? How many colours does this bird have? How does it move? If we drew a bird on paper, or made one out of materials, would it fly? Who gives it this skill? How can we thank Allah for his blessings?





Impact of Performing Arts Early

The Arts

"The arts make us feel connected to one another and less isolated...we share an emotion and that sharing connects us with each other. The arts are our last hope. We find our identity and make it easier and more pleasurable to live...We see our problems acted out and it's an important socializing force."

Arthur Miller

Why is the Theatre good?

- Develops creativity, identity, and imagination.
- Help to preserve our cultural heritage.
- Enable young children to develop their own languages.
- Help to shape their individual, community and global identity.
- Strengthen parent-child bonds and engage families in their children's learning.
- Help to develop the life skills which will help our children to become creative adults.

Go to the theatre and bring your child with you!

Have a look at the few shows we picked up for you.

The Lion King: A hugely popular London musical set against the majesty of the Serengeti Plains, to the evocative rhythms of Africa - Lyceum Theatre

Matilda The Musical: The Royal Shakespeare Company's multi-award winning production - London's Cambridge Theatre

ROALD DAHL's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: 'Theatre Show of the Year' winner at the London Lifestyle Awards 2015 - Drury Lane Theatre Royal



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Please take a few minutes to share your feedback on the Early childhood Chronicle and any topics you would like included via eced@iuk.org

A very big thank you to all our writers and contributors for all their hard work, creativity and insights. We are truly very grateful.

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