

Week of the Young Child: Music Monday



Music is all around us, and young children are natural musicians who love to sing, make music, and move to the beat. Besides being fun, music is a powerful learning tool. Music making sparks many areas of the brain simultaneously, creating unique neural connections that support language, social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. And, music is a great way to share cultural traditions. Treat your child to songs in your native language(s).

Let's Make Music

Celebrate Week of the Young Child at the library by exploring instruments. At home, you can make a [band with kitchen items](#) like pots, ladles, and wooden spoons. Don't forget the instrument we all carry with us—our voice! Our bodies can be percussion instruments too as we clap or stomp to a steady beat. Your child will have fun:

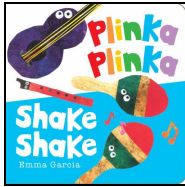
- Making loud and quiet sounds
- Hearing high and low notes when they strike different tonal blocks
- Strengthening handwriting muscles as they tap egg shakers together
- Learning early math skills like patterns by copying adult models, such as marching slowly, quickly, slowly to the song *The Ants Go Marching*.

Make a shaker: Collect 2 small paper plates, place dried beans in between, staple shut. Different sizes, types, and amounts of beans make different sounds. Your child can decorate too with crayons, markers, and other art supplies.



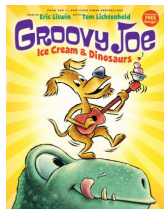
Let's Read

Music is a great way to connect children to language, math, and literacy. Pick one of these books and sing with your child for a new way to enjoy reading together. Songs slow down language, helping children hear the smaller sounds in words—key to decoding words when learning to read. Or play music, dance, and clap to the beat!



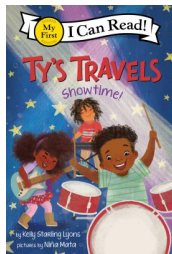
Plinka, Plinka, Shake, Shake by Emma Garcia

[Kids Board Book GAR](#)



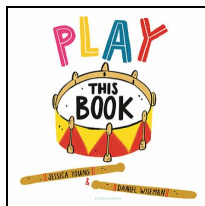
Ice Cream & Dinosaurs by Eric Litwin

[Picture Book Stories By Author LIT](#)



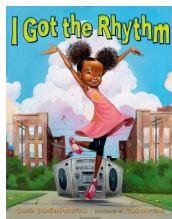
Showtime! By Kelly Starling Lyons

[Kids Most Wanted LYO](#)



Play This Book by Jessica Young

[Picture Book Interactive YOU](#)



I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison

[Picture Book All About Me/My Body SCH](#)

Sources: [Baby Music](#), [unicef](#), [How music affects your baby's brain](#), [unicef](#), [The benefits of music for children](#), [Music Together](#), [Why making music matters](#), [The Carnegie Hall Corporation](#), [Playing with music at home](#), [NAEYC](#), [How music resonates in the brain](#), [Harvard Medicine](#), [The 5 early literacy practices: sing](#), [Colorado Virtual Library](#), [Beyond twinkle, twinkle: using music with infants and toddlers, zero to three](#).