

Rhythm Readers



Goal: Allow children to experience and explore rhythm in language and music. Children will practice recognizing and maintaining rhythm. The children will be able to practice making their own rhythms!

BookSpring will provide:

- Read aloud selections
- Song posters, “music mat”
- Various rhythm-making instruments
- Song CD

What to do BEFORE reading the story

- Seat yourself on the floor or a low chair. Have the children sit in a half circle so that they can all see and hear you. Introduce yourself and tell the children that, today, they will be hearing a story with a special beat or rhythm. Introduce the term, rhythm, and use the drum to play the beats of some common songs to see if the children can recognize the songs by the beat alone.
- For Infants: Share the board book *If You're Happy and You Know It...* while using one of the instruments to play a soothing beat.
- For Toddlers and Preschoolers: Clap some rhythms for the children and see if they can clap them back to you. Let them know that this will help them learn to pick out rhythms because they will be helping you with the story as you read! Introduce the names of the instruments to the children. Chant “The Train” poem and have the children tap their knees and clap the train rhythm.
- For Preschoolers: Introduce some of the rhythm instruments from the kit. Experiment with some of the instruments and allow children to play the instruments. Talk about the names of the instruments. Sing “the BookSpring Rhythm Band” song and have the children keep the beat at the end of each line. (1,2)

What to do DURING the story

- Pick up the instruments and put them in the box. Encourage the children to join in keeping the rhythm of the story by chanting or clapping.
- Be sure to change your voice along with the rhythm of the story.
- Show the illustrations in a way that all children can see them. Pause to ask the children questions such as, “What do you think will happen next?”

What to do AFTER reading the story

- Can the children repeat the common rhythm of the story for you without help?
- Talk to the children about what “Books For Me” means, and tell them that, today, they will be choosing a new book of their very own!
- For Infants and Toddlers: Allow each child to choose from 2 or 3 books.
- For Preschoolers: Explain the book selection process. Tell the children they will walk around the tables so that they can see all of the books. Then, when the teacher says to choose a book, they can choose one book they would like to take home and keep forever. The children will take their books to their teacher, who will write their names in their books.
- After the children have selected their books, volunteers and center teachers should sit down with the children to begin reading the books the children selected for a short period of time.

Suggested Read-Aloud Books

We will try to include multiple copies of the suggested read-aloud books in your book collection.

For Infants: If You're Happy and You Know It, or Azul El Sombrero, Verde El Sombrero

- With younger children, you should “play” the instruments for your students to gain class engagement. Encourage the children to imitate your facial movements and sounds. Read the selection to the children and then sing it for them. Help them to clap their hands or pat their legs during the songs.
- Singing songs and doing finger-plays that are related to music, dance, and sound is a perfect way to make the routine tasks of bath-time, mealtime, and naptime more impactful and fun for everyone.

For Toddlers and Preschoolers: Knick, Knack Paddy Whack or ¡Mira quién toca calipso!

Discussion Points:

- Ask children to describe what they see in the illustrations and what is happening.
- Explain to the children that it is common in rhythmic stories or songs for a certain rhythm to be repeated over and over. Share with the students the part of the read aloud that will be repeated and help them practice the beat. **Do not try and read the story while every child has an instrument.** Gather them up and put them in the box. A volunteer suggested giving one new instrument to a different child each time the chorus comes up and then taking it back after each chorus.
- After reading the book, go back through and look at the pictures again. Did the children notice that a new child joined the jamboree each time? What else did they notice? How many of the instruments in the story can they recognize?
- Explain the book selection process. Tell the children they will walk to the tables and choose one book he/she would like to take home and keep forever. The children will take their books to their teacher, who will write their names in their books. For young children, it is helpful to send them to the book table one at a time.

Community Connection: We live in Austin—an amazing place for live music! Check out www.freefuninaustin.com to find family friendly shows (and many other events) all free and all right here in our great city!

Tech Connection: Go to this website for an awesome article and for more ideas for rhythm activities: <http://family.go.com/parenting>

Developmental Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening:

The student will: learn new vocabulary and identify familiar instruments when prompted. The student will: demonstrate knowledge of rhythm and its uses by showing interest in rhythmic books and participating in creating rhythms.