Tip of the Month Responses – Favorite Storytime Songs

“5 Little Monkeys Jumping On the Bed” -Michelle Edwards, Martins Ferry Public Library

Oh – so many favorites! One I always use as a warm-up is “Jumping and Counting” from Jim Gill’s Irrational Anthem CD. The kids call me “that lady who jumps up and down!” -Lori Faust, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library

These are my current favs to use for storytime: “Milkshake Song” from the Songs for Wiggleworms CD (use this song with shakers!) and “These Are My Glasses” from Laurie Berkner's Whaddaya Think of That CD (great opening song) -Angie Grandstaff, Upper Arlington Public Library

For the past two years, I’ve use the same three songs for every preschool storytime. Last month I added a fourth. The kids love the songs and often ask me to play them again. Opening songs - "If You're Happy and You Know It” sung by Raffi (the version where you clap your hands, let it ring and shout hooray) and “Skinamarinkidink” by Sharon, Lois, and Bram (I also sang this with my youngest sister when we were little); Closing songs - "Victor Vito” by Laurie Berkner (This is the song I just added. Each child picks a rhythm instrument to play and we play, sing, and dance to the song. Usually the child picks out an instrument for his/her parent to play too.) and “The Hokey Pokey” sung by the Sesame Street Gang from Elmo’s Favorite Sing-Alongss. -Amanda L. S. Murphy, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library

Our favorite storytime song that I’ve just started doing as an opening one each week is "Oh Hey Oh Hi Hello" by Jim Gill from his Jim Gill Makes It Noisy in Boise CD. I heard this song at a local preschool while there on a visit and fell in love with it! We all sit and wave to each other as we sing the verses in the voices says! It's too fun, especially the underwater one! -Barbara Scott, Bucyrus Public Library

Two that I use on alternating weeks are:
"Wake up Toes” from Joanie Bartels Morning Magic
"Hands are for Clapping” from Jim Gill sings the Sneezing Song and other Contagious Tunes -Judy Green

We always open with "Wake up Toes" by Joanie Bartels on her Morning Magic CD. I use it for all ages; babies, toddlers, and the family storytimes...the kids never tire of it even as they get older, and kids who only come every so often are tickled to hear a song they remember. I also use the Dragon Tunes CD from the TV show "Dragon Tales" it has a lot of great songs to get up and dance to. -Kara Cervelli, Perry Public Library

A couple of my favorites are “Knuckles Knees” by Jim Gill off of his album Jim Gill Sings Do Re Mi on His Toe Leg Kee” and “Going to Kentucky” by Sue Schnitzer off of her album Wiggle and Whirl. Both are very active and lots of fun for parents and children. -Heidi L. Smith, Kaubisch Memorial Public Library

My favorite, and a favorite with parents, is Hap Palmer's “What a Miracle” from his Walter the Waltzing Worm CD. -Patti Lusher, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
1) From *Woody’s Grow Big Songs 2*, I have used the song “Pick it Up” with much success. Great for 2-3 year olds!
2) From the wonderful Laurie Berkner, I have used the song “The Goldfish.” Probably better for 4-5 year olds.
3) Jim Gill’s “Stick to the Glue” and “List of Dances” found on *Noisy in Boise, Idaho*.
4) Debbie Clement’s “You’re Wonderful” found on *Debbie’s Ditties for Little Kiddies*.
5) Also from Jim Gill, “The Sneezing Song,” “Spaghetti Legs,” “Hands are for Clapping,” and “May There Always Be Sunshine” as found on *The Sneezing Song and Other Contagious Tunes*.
6) “Peanut Butter and Jelly” is both traditional and popular. I used a version recently from a CD called *Bake, Build, Sing, and Scrub: Musical Activities for Fun at Home*. – *Mary Bird, Akron-Summit County Public Library*

What a great idea for a tip of the month! I am especially fond of Jim Gill’s songs, especially "The Sneezing Song" and "Alabama Mississippi." - *Susan Ungham, Cleveland Public Library, South Branch*

“Tooty-ta” by on Dr. Jean Feldman *Dr. Jean and Friends*, “Goldfish Song” by Laurie Berkner on *Victor Vito*, and “List of Dances” by Jim Gill - *Jenny Sullivan, Greenville Public Library*

We have one we love to use here at Lima...“Shake Your Sillies Out” from the Wiggles CD *Yummy Yummy*. The kids love to use this as a warm up song and everyone can’t help but play along! - *Chanda L. Smith, Lima Public Library*

I have long enjoyed "Put Your Hands in the Air" by Hap Palmer on the *So Big* CD and also "The More We Get Together" on the *Six Little Ducks* CD. – *Ellen O’Hara, Ritter Public Library*

For my laptime, the children love to sing “Put Your Finger in the Air,” from *Greg and Steve Playing Favorites*. - *Susan Harbaugh, Troy-Miami Co. Public Library*

We love "Can Can Dance" from *Toddlerific* by Georgiana Stewart for our Toddler Time. The 5-7 year olds and their grown-ups love "Tony Chestnut" from *Tony Chestnut & Funtime Action Songs* by Learning Station. (preschoolers can do it but don't "get it") - *Linda Baker, Burton Public Library*

The song I use the most at my toddlertime is "All Together Now" by Debbie Clement from her CD entitled *Debbie’s Ditties 3: At the Library*. - *Terri Winke, Ida Rupp Public Library*

I too enjoy promoting language development and early literacy skills through the use of music in storytime. Here are a few tried and true favorites:

1) *Hap Palmer’s Sally the Swingin’ Snake*
   Palmer, Hap
   Educational Activities, Inc.
   1994 Activity Records
   Hap Palmer’s title song on the CD *Sally the Swingin’ Snake* is a perfect action song to really enhance storytime, especially if the stories are about snakes. I pass out a
snake for each child to use and follow along with the song. Afterwards, the children can add eyes or decorate their snakes to take home as a story souvenir! Snakes can be made in various ways including felt, fabric, or lengths of very thick rope or cording (something that won’t unravel). When I use rope, I tie 1-3 knots at one end of the rope for the head. Eyes can be made from paper, buttons, hole reinforces etc. Glue on eyes with a glue gun for fast results or there are now self-stick wiggle eyes on the market too! Add a tongue made from paper or curling ribbon for extra fun! The children also really enjoy the song “Wiggy Wiggy Wiggles” from the same CD.

2) Six Little Ducks: Classic children’s songs
KIMBO Educational
ISBN 1-56346-059-9
KIM 9147CD
This CD contains my favorite version of the “Little White Duck.” I read from Walt Whippo’s book and then share this version of the song.

3) Stinky Cake
Carol Peterson
2005 Macaroni Soup
How could you go wrong with a title like Stinky Cake? Just sing along.

4) Mustard Pancakes
Campbell, Courtney
Whatta Guy Music, Distributed by Arrow Distributing, 2005
I am a fan of creating prop or felt board figures to use with music. Campbell’s CD Mustard Pancakes has two songs that I enjoyed creating and sharing with children in storytime (the children enjoyed them a whole lot too!):

- For “Chocolate Cake” I created a mouse, bird, cat, dog and a lion out of felt. Next I made 2 identical large chocolate cakes, one I cut one into bites, sort of like a puzzle so that each can be pulled off as the animals steal a bite. The other I kept whole for the ending. The children really enjoyed this and ask to “do it again.” The children enjoyed keeping the beat with the “Chhh chhhka chhh chhhka chhh chhh chhh” refrain. We “made” chocolate cake by gluing brown construction paper onto a paper plate and decoration it with sprinkles (i.e., a variety of ¼” dot color coding labels). Mmmmm! it was a delicious storytime!
- For “The Singing King” (on the same CD), I made felt board pieces of the royal family and their musical instruments. I play the song twice, introducing it to the children the first time and inviting them to join me by adding actions the second time. We really enjoy singing and humming while we made making crowns for storytime souvenirs! -Linda S. Kerul, Washington Branch Library

I use a variety of songs in my storytimes. My opening “signature” song, if you will, is called “Hello, How are You?” This is sung to the tune of “Skip to My Lou,” and it goes like this:

Hello, how are you?
Hello, how are you?
Hello, how are you?
How are you today?
It’s good to see Johnny here, it’s good to see Susie, it’s good to see Mary here, How are you today?

Hello, how are you? 
Hello, how are you? 
Hello, how are you? 
How are you today?

Then you repeat until you have greeted each child in the group. The kids look forward to this song and they often sing it at home, from what parents have told me. I also like to use Raffi’s CDs, especially *Shake the Sillies Out*. Jim Gill is also another favorite one, and the “16 Dance Song,” is a favorite among the kids. Debbie Clement’s “Follow Game” from the *Debbie’s Ditties 4: Come Dance S’More* CD is a good one to use with 2- and 3-year-olds.

My closing song is sung to the tune of “Heigh-ho Heigh-ho,” from Walt Disney’s “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.” It goes like this:

“Goodbye, goodbye, it’s time to say goodbye, 
We’ve have some fun and now it’s done, 
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye, goodbye,

And then I repeat the whole thing at least once if not twice and I wave goodbye to everyone and say “see you next week.”

Another popular CD is *Blue’s Clues Boogie* and the song, “The Buddy Boogie,” is a whole lot of fun and the kids really liked that a lot. Some of the older CDs that I use are Hap Palmer’s *Sally the Swinging Snake*, and two songs that I use often are “Wiggy Wiggy Wiggles,” and “On the Count of Five.” I was able to get ideas for a lot of these songs from previous OLC workshops and conferences, PUBYAC listserv, and my supervisor and coworkers. -Patty Rose, Wright Memorial Public Library