

Music Shakers

You'll need: 1) Plastic medicine bottles in various sizes, soap bottles, small pop-top juice cans, or small aluminum pie or tart pans, small pop-top juice cans, or small aluminum pie or tart pans, 2) Popcorn, rice, dried beans, pennies, and other noise-making items, 3) Glue gun or tape. Collect an assortment of variously sized plastic medicine bottles, soap bottles, small juice cans, or small aluminum pie or tart pans. Partially fill each container with anything that creates noise: popcorn, rice, dried beans, pennies, and so on. Use a variety of items, as each makes a different sound. If the container has a lid, or if using aluminum pie pans, secure them with glue from a hot glue gun. If the container doesn't have a lid, tape it shut.

Get Active This Spring

1. Go on a walk (inside or out) and take pictures of what you see.
2. Shop for and make a fresh home-cooked meal.
3. Make that craft that you have always wanted to try. (I recommend arm knitting!)
4. Choreograph a new dance move to your favorite song and show it off to your family and friends!
5. Write a poem (and if you are feeling really adventurous, put it to music).
6. Plant a seed and take a picture of it every day!
7. Go on a picnic.
8. Thoroughly spring clean your room or house.
9. Download some favorite songs from **Freemal** and make a "get up and go" playlist or CD.
10. Have a spring scavenger hunt!

Web Picks

Children love playing with technology and some of the coolest PPLD technology for kids are the touchscreen AWE computers, available at all locations! While the AWE computers have a little bit of everything, the button on the far right is the Music & Art button. The programs dedicated solely to music are the **Giggle Kids! My Musical World** and **MusiCan 1-5**. These programs focus on the delights of the musically gifted, ranging in experience from the very basic musical instruction to the more advanced, depending on the age of the child. **Giggle Kids! My Musical World** really helps children read music, while the **MusiCan** software helps kids connect with music on intimate levels. For example, **MusiCan 1** helps young kids connect sounds with actions, like the sound of rain to a thunderstorm. All of these software programs on AWE are fantastic ways to get your kids interested in musical theory at a young age, especially if they already love music. The next time you visit your local PPLD location, give the AWE computers a try!

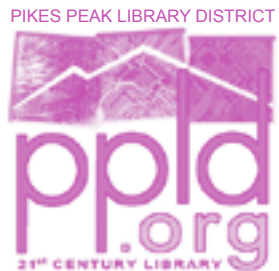
Kids Dance! Play! Read!

- J-Easy** (picture books)
Angelina Ballerina by Katharine Holabird
Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Smith
What to Be in a Band? By Suzzy Roche
Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo by John Lithgow
Penguin Cha-Cha by Kristi Valiant
The Cat's Baton Is Gone!
a Musical Cat-tastrophe by Scott Hennessy
J-Fiction
A Mouse Called Wolf by Dick King-Smith
Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild
Morgy's Musical Summer by Maggie Lewis
Welcome to Starvation Lake by Gloria Whelan
Dance with Rosie by Patricia Reilly Giff (Ballet Slippers series)
Showtime! by Sheryl Berk (Dance Divas series)
J-Nonfiction
 780s – **instruments** (and how to play them)
 790s – **dance**

Tell us what you think! We welcome topical ideas to enhance your educational endeavors. Contact gsohns@ppld.org.

Young Adult Fiction and Nonfiction

- Fiction**
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan
Seraphina by Rachel Hartman
The Lucy Variations by Sara Zarr
Ten Miles Past Normal by Frances O'Roark Dowell
Catherine by Mike A. Lancaster
Lemonade Mouth by Mark Peter Hughes
Nonfiction
 782.42166 B369MAR
The Beatles: The Music Was Never the Same by Marvin Martin
 782.42164 J77S
Say It Loud: The Story of Rap by Maurice K. Jones
 787.87 B118G
Guitar for Girls by Alex Bach
 305.235092 V864T
Teen Angst? Naaah... by Ned Vizzini



HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS

An Educational Resource Tool

Spring 2014

MUSIC MATTERS!

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Parents may wonder why we would encourage music and movement in children when it is all they can do to get their kids to stand still and be quiet! But can you really imagine childhood without the energy of wiggles and the joy of sound?

Children actually thrive in an environment balanced with quiet and sound coupled with the freedom to jump, skip, run, stomp, and leap. In general, children are born wiggling and creating noise! They learn about their environment through sound and movement. Both music and movement, whether it is dance or sports, have definite benefits in the healthy development of a child.



Just a few would include:

- Music and movement create a healthy body by encouraging muscle use and blood flow.
- Children learn well to music and start learning language through music and rhythms.
- During grief or loss, children may use singing and dance as a tool to share their emotional response.
- Movement helps children to be able to sit still later for lessons.
- Children may learn about the world through experiencing other cultures' social music and dance.

With such positives, how does the parent include music and movement in their children's daily lives? First, while your children are babies, let music be a natural part of your home. Include many types of music. Also, use household items to create noise and music with your children. As you do this, movement will follow! Experiment with a preschool focused art and music class designed for parents and children to experience together. Let the children hum or softly sing while completing other tasks or schoolwork. While not final, use CDs and books at home and be a participant with your child.

As children grow, many families encourage formal music instruction and sports or martial arts. Experiment with many types and let your child choose the area to express themselves. Try not to place pressure on young children so they feel safe and comfortable investigating their potential music or movement based gifts.

Moreover, experienced home educators will share that homeschooling gives their families the opportunity to spend less time sitting and more time engaging in activities such as hiking, biking, and general backyard play. Children may also take music, ballet, and gymnastics in the day during special homeschool classes.

No matter what educational choice your family makes, it is evident music and movement may definitely share a beneficial place within your home. Please explore the following resources to further your study.

Finally, start singing and get moving!

PPLD Resources

- PPLD **KidsWeb** tools such as **Tumble Books** and **Library Events**
Good Health Guides - Exercise is Fun J613.71 G798e
Sing and Play Children's Music CD / ZM SING SP B02
Wee Sing Various Children's Videos and Music CDs
Just Dance Wii Games

Web Resources

- barnesandnoble.com/u/jackie-silberg-importance-of-music/379002449/
niu.edu/cc/resources/importanceofmusicandmovement.pdf
musikgarten.org/music_movement.cfm
bigcitymoms.com/articles/parenting-center-parenting-1378504173198/toddler/play/unknown--10-ways-to-encourage-musical-development.html



new The BookShelf

– great new books for homeschoolers

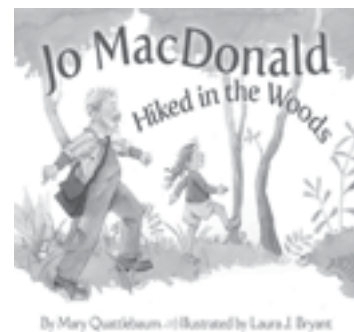
New books are treasures, waiting to be discovered. Your Pikes Peak Library District has hundreds of these treasures, waiting for YOU!



Pug and Other Animal Poems
by Valerie Worth (2013)
Browse the children's area under 811.54 to see just how many poetry books there are available. **Pug and Other Animal Poems** is illustrated by Steve Jenkins – the guy who uses handmade paper, and cuts it and places it to create beautiful animals.
Ages 4 - 12; literature, poetry

Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives

by Lola M. Schaefer (2013)
How many times certain animals do certain things during their lifetime. Shed antlers, grow new fleeces, drill holes in trees ... how many? The author has added SIX pages of animal facts, and includes how the number was determined.
Ages 4 - 12; animal biology, math



Jo MacDonald Hiked in the Woods
by Mary Quattlebaum (2013)
This book sings just like Old MacDonald! Find the animals on the pages, and add some of the activities at the end of the book. The author has written information about plants and animals, and has questions that are answered on the information pages!
Ages 2 - 6+; science, visual search-and-find games

Is This Panama?

by Jan Thornhill (2013)
Read about the talking Wilson's Warbler who is trying to migrate south for the winter. He meets many other migratory animals, and they explain where they are migrating to and why. Author has included information at the end about each of the animals in the story.
Ages 3 - 6; animal biology



Want to Be in a Band?
by Suzzy Roche (2013)
Are there young, aspiring musicians/performers in your house? You might want to read this picture book to them. The author was in a band with her sisters for 30 years, and this is partly their story. The story is full of kindness, too, with reminders about practicing kindness.
Ages 3 - 8, family story

Pikes Peak Library District

Secrets

Little-Known

Music in the Library

Love free things? What about listening to music? If you would describe yourself as a music maniac, then your library has the databases for you. Pikes Peak Library District has a couple of online services that allow you (our patron) to get music for free anywhere you can connect to the Internet. The first is a relatively new service from PPLD called **Hoopla**. Here you can stream music and videos from the Internet. Log on at any time day or night and instantly stream any of the thousands of available CDs. Each PPLD library card will allow you to borrow up to 8 titles per month, which will automatically be returned to the library after one week. No late fees! Aside from music, **Hoopla** also offers many types of videos (including documentaries, exercise, and family titles) that check out for three days.



The other service available to all of the music lovers in PPLD is called **Freegal** (meaning free and legal). With this service you are able to **download three free songs every week and keep them ... FOREVER!** Yes, that's right folks; the songs that you get from **Freegal** are yours to keep. This is a way for patrons to get the songs they love for free, while the library pays for those songs so that favorite artists may always be available.

While PPLD may not be able to offer patrons music from every artist from these databases, there is something sure to please even the pickiest of music aficionados. There is music from almost every genre under the sun with titles sure to interest a person of any age (from Kidz Bop to classical Bach).

If you are interested in trying out either of these free services (or your interest is piqued and you would like to know more), you can find both of these amazing services on the PPLD webpage (ppld.org) under the **eMusic** section of our **CyberShelf**. Patrons may also look them up on their personal app store and download the free app for either service.

Homeschool Events

Science Lab
Use PPLD's science equipment for parent-assigned experiments. Watch for news about occasional special lessons and programs planned during lab time. Contact Tori at vsparrow@ppld.org for more information or visit ppld.org/homeschool-hub.

3rd Friday of each month
1 - 3 p.m. ♦ East Library

Lunch Bunch
There's a different family learning experience every time. Enjoy your sack lunch while socializing with other homeschooling families after the program.

Fountain Library
3rd Tuesday of each month
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Contact Jessica at jfreeland@ppld.org for more information.

High Prairie Library
4th Wednesday of each month
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Contact Julie at jsimmons@ppld.org for more information, or call 260-3650 to register.

Music and Movement in a

Child's Development
Northridge Dance Center will explore and experience the benefits of Music and Movement.
Rockrimmon Library
Thu., April 10 ♦ noon - 2 p.m.
Register at ppld.org or call 593-8000.
Contact Tina at tlewis@ppld.org for more information.

Homeschool Programs @ Monument
Come for a different presentation every time. (Contact Sandy at syates@ppld.org for more information.)
4th Monday of each month
1 - 2:30 p.m. - Monument Library

7th Annual Homeschool Art Show!
Homeschooled students of all ages can submit one drawing, painting, photo, sculpture, etc. to the Children's Department at East Library, March 24 - 30, 2014. All artwork will be on display during the entire month of April and we'll end with a reception for friends and family. Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org for more information.

Other Events

Spring Break Fun!
March 24 - 28 will be full of music, puppets, animals, magic and more! Check with your local library for locations and times.

Study Buddies
Teen volunteers help students in kindergarten through fifth grade with homework or reading practice. Call (719) 531-6333, x1407 or x1403 for more information.
Tuesdays ♦ 6:30 - 8 p.m. ♦ East Library

Teen Tech Week – DIY @ Your Library
March 9 - 15, 2014
Come into your local library and ask about some of the great resources that we have online! Or head to one of the libraries below to check out Tech of Ages:
Sat., March 8 ♦ 2:30 - 4 p.m. ♦ East Library Lobby
Tue., March 11 ♦ 2:30 - 4 p.m. ♦ Fountain

Summer Reading Program Volunteers Needed!
Looking for something to do this summer? Well look no further! If you are a teen, age 12 and up, please volunteer at the Library and help with the Summer Reading Program. Applications will be available in late March. If you are interested, fill one out and drop it off at your closest library. We are counting on you!

Teen Art Show
Come and check out the Teen Art from the 7th Annual Teen Art contest that will be displayed at the East and Penrose Libraries during the month of April. This year we asked that all submissions be based on the theme Art² (Art Squared), which means that as long as the piece is square, the content is up to the artist.



Fathers and Homeschooling 101

“Honey, I Think We Should Homeschool”

Even though moms do most of the educating, fathers definitely have a big impact on the success of your homeschool.

Step 1: Educate Yourself

The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA, hsllda.org) is your one-stop launching pad for everything homeschool. You'll need understanding to support this decision mentally, emotionally, financially and even physically. For example, HSLDA will help you understand socialization and why homeschool can actually provide superior socialization for some students. Additionally, informing yourself will encourage your wife as she prepares for this big commitment. Moreover, although Colorado has an excellent homeschool law, consider joining HSLDA for the legal protection they afford. Use the resources at the library to stay informed, access materials, and participate in programming.

Step 2: Plan

Many decisions need to be made including curriculum, budgets, course of study, involvement in homeschool groups, etc. Although your wife is capable of making these decisions on her own, she'll appreciate your participation and insights, and it's important you understand and support the direction your homeschool is going. So, be involved and make sure you both agree on all important homeschool decisions.

Step 3: Support

Fathers, this is the most important step. When in doubt, support! Support your wife physically by helping to get the children up in the mornings and bathing and putting them to bed at night. Support her by making or bringing home meals at least once a week, cleaning up after the meal is done, playing with the children in the evenings, taking them outside to play, thus giving your wife a much-needed break or quiet time. I highly recommend establishing set schedules for waking up, going to bed, doing chores and homeschool time. Schedules tell everyone that this is serious business and ensure things run smoother in your household. Support your wife emotionally by listening to her concerns with the children and your HS (often without offering advice until asked!) A well-timed night out with flowers can also do wonders, men, for your wife's emotional well-being. Support your wife mentally by taking an interest in the children's courses, quizzing them on their studies, helping them to prepare for tests and rejoicing with them when they succeed. Moreover, in love enforce discipline and consequences when required levels of chores, education, etc. are missed, which tells everyone that you are involved and care about their success. Finally, support your wife financially by following a budget which sets aside money each month for homeschool. This tells her that your decision to homeschool is important, is safe and is “protected.”

Fathers, by educating yourself, planning your homeschool with your wife, and providing plenty of support, homeschooling can be one of the most rewarding and best decisions you'll ever make for your child's education and future success.

Would you like to be a Featured Family?
Contact Tina at tlewis@ppld.org.

Homeschool Connections ♦ Spring/2014