Music Resources for Young Children

Hey Everybody (Rob Fairbairn) – free online resource
https://www.bushfirepress.com/musicroom/book_2/u1_l1/CD1_track01.html

This is a fantastic song which children of all ages love.
Great song for echo singing and introducing claves (rhythm sticks) – there are two different patterns to play: (1) tapping the beat, and (2) a “WAIT - quick quick slow” pattern in the chorus. Children learn to watch and listen.

I like this because it’s very Australian, with the didgeridoo and rhythm sticks, and the children sing in Australian accents!

Suggested music session for a playgroup or early childhood setting

1. Good Morning Says the Sun (Jenny Cork) or another greeting song
Sit in a circle. Very young children or babies (they are never too young!) can sit on their parent/carer’s lap.
Tap the beat on your knees. Ask each child to think of a different place to tap the beat (E.g. head, feet, floor, nose).

Good Morning Says the Sun (Jenny Cork)
Good morning says the sun, a happy day to you.
And all the children here with us all sing good morning too.
Good morning (children echo – good morning), good morning everyone,
Good morning (good morning), it’s time to have some fun.

(Jenny Cork is a music educator of over 30 years experience, who wrote the curriculum for the children’s music program I teach in, Tuning In, and she is happy for her song to be shared.)

2. Walking the beat chanting a nursery rhyme. Try it fast – little mouse steps or slow – big elephant steps.


4. A song with instruments
E.g. Hey Everybody – rhythm sticks
If you’re happy and you know it, tap your sticks (shake your bells, shake your eggs etc)
I’m going to shake, shake, shake my sillies out (tap, tap, tap etc)
(These sorts of language substitution activities are great for promoting cognitive flexibility and language development)
5. Dance

E.g. Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Hokey Pokey,
While CDs can be great, I would actually encourage parents to actually just
My personal preference is to use CDs more for dance activities.

6. Game – the children are going to sleep
The children are going to sleep, the children are going to sleep.
Ah, ah, the children are going to sleep.

(all the children “go to sleep” and one child “wakes everyone up” at the end by
playing a musical instrument (bells, rhythm sticks, whatever you have. Each child has
a turn to “wake” everyone up). Great for promoting self-regulation and children love
it!

7. Song at the end to close, e.g. Music time has ended.
Music time has ended, music time has ended.
Goodbye (Jonathan), goodbye Allison (child sings back –parent can help with this!).
Goodbye (Amelia), goodbye Allison.
(Sing goodbye to each child).

**CDs I like:**
There’s a bear in there – Playschool.

**Classical music for movement**
Instead of structured dance you can do creative imaginative movement activities
with classical music (we wouldn’t just make our child read only Spot books, so why
would we only give our children a taste of one type of music? Children love classical
music as much as other types of music when they have the opportunity to hear and
move to it):

1. The Aquarium from Carnival of the Animals -
Do this with coloured scarves – as you move talk about all the creatures you can see
in the ocean – fish, starfish, crabs etc. Have a look at the Tuning In Facebook page
and you can see a short video of this: [https://www.facebook.com/Tuning-In-555568934572822/timeline/](https://www.facebook.com/Tuning-In-555568934572822/timeline/). Children also love The Lion from Carnival of the
Animals – have a listen and see if you can hear daddy lion ROAR and the baby lions
playing! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DndnJcozMYA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DndnJcozMYA)

This website has 14 different short pieces of classical music with descriptions of
activities to use with them.

*Allison Cameron – October 2015*

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