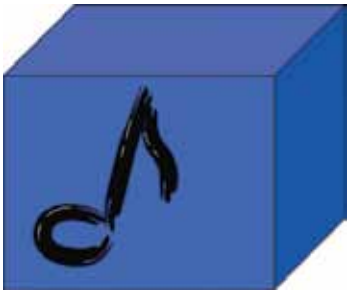
Music Is a Must!

Activities

- Create a large cube by sliding two square boxes together (one inside the other). Cover them with contact paper. Write the name of a song or fingerplay on one side of the cube. Decorate the side and add pictures to help children identify the song. Do this on all six sides of the cube. Have the children sit in a circle and "roll" the cube. Then everyone sings the song it lands on.
- Have children listen to a piece of music and draw pictures of how it makes them feel.
- Draw a different colored dot on each of a child's fingers. Sing "Where Is Thumbkin?" except, instead of singing "Thumbkin," sing the name of a color, like, "Blue man," or "Pinky." The child should hold up whichever finger is being sung about. This strengthens their muscles and develops coordination.
- While sitting down, sing the following songs and do the gestures:

  Up and down, round and round, (Draw circles in the air.)
  Put your fingers on the ground.
  Over, (Hold hands above lap.) under, (hands below legs) in between (Hide your hands between your legs.)
  Now my fingers can't be seen!
  Hands in front, hands behind, now my hands I cannot find.
  Here's my left hand, here's my right, hands and fingers back in sight. (Wiggle fingers.)

  Open, shut them. Open, shut them. (Open and close your hands.)
  Give a little clap, clap, clap! (Clap your hands.)
  Open, shut them. Open, shut them,
  Lay them in your lap, lap, lap! (Clap hands on your lap.)
  Creep them, creep them, slowly creep them, (Creep your fingers up your arm.)
  Right up to your chin. (Stop your fingers at your mouth.)
  Open wide your little mouth. (Open your mouth wide.)
  But do not let them in! (Race your fingers down your arm.)



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Music Is a Must!

Activities

Shakers

Decorate two paper plates with markers or crayons. Pour 1/4 cup dried beans or rice onto one of the plates. Staple or tape the plates together. Shake it to the beat!

or

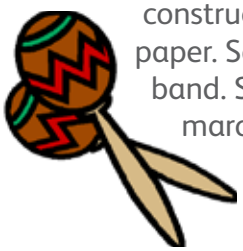
Decorate a film canister with stickers. Put rice, dried beans, or pasta in the canister. Close the lid and shake it to the beat!

Jingle Bells

Lace some bells through your children's shoelaces. Have them walk, dance, and run while listening to the rhythm of the bells.

Maracas

To make a maraca, put beans, rice, or pennies in a paper cup. Cover with a piece of construction paper or wax paper. Secure with a rubber band. Shake gently while marching or singing.



Guitar

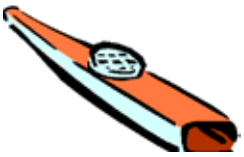
Stretch two or three rubber bands lengthwise around an empty tissue box. Attach a paper towel tube to one end of the box for the neck. Strum the rubber bands and sing a favorite song.

Drum

Cover an oatmeal box with construction paper and decorate. Use another piece of paper (attach with a rubber band) or the box lid as the drumhead. Gently tap with fingers or sticks to the beat of the music.

Kazoo

Cover the end of a toilet paper tube with a small sheet of wax paper and secure it with a rubber band. Hum into the open end.



Stone Clackers

Look for some stones that fit comfortably in your child's hands. Clap them together as you sing your favorite song.

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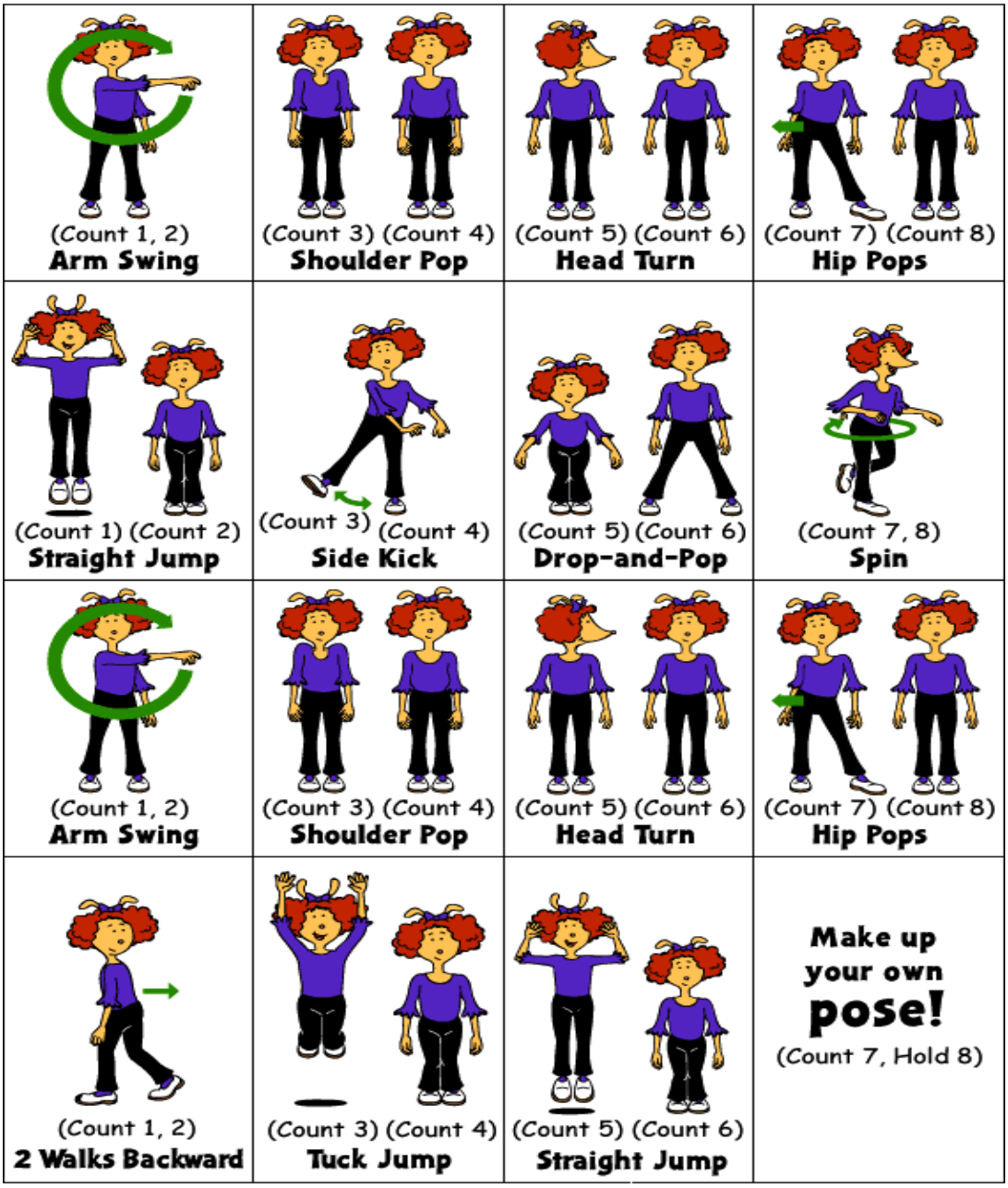
Music Is a Must!

Activities

Not sure how to make up your own dance? Use the following simple movement cards (from pbskids.org/arthur/print/grooveit/do_the_prunella.html) to create your own dance. It's up to you how many times you repeat an action or which actions you use.



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Music Is a Must!

Activities

Use the following to make up your own jingle. Match one of these familiar melodies with one of the actions, and have your children make up words to the tune.

Melodies

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Are You Sleeping?

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

I'm a Little Teapot

Jingle Bells

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Actions

Brush Your Teeth

I Love You

It's Nap Time

Getting Dressed

Clean Up Time

Time to Go

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Music Is a Must!

Activities

"Brush Your Teeth" to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

Are your teeth gross?
Are they yellow?
Yes! They are.
Yes! They are.
Get your brush and toothpaste.
You'll love that minty fresh taste.
Brush away!
Brush away!

"Time to Go" to the tune of "Jingle Bells"

Time to go!
Time to go!
It's time to go away!
Grab your shoes. Clean up your toys.
Please hurry, don't delay-ay!

Time to go!
Time to go!
It's time to go away!
Go out the door, get in the car.
We can't be late today-ay!

"I Love You" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

I, I, I love you!
Yes, I really do!
I love you and you love me,
So we're a happy family.

"Clean Up Time" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Pick, pick up your toys.
Put them all away.
Find a friend and come sit down.
It's time to start our day.

"Look at the Clock" to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Look at the clock.
It's time to go, time to go, time to go!
Look at the clock.
It's time to go . . .
outside to play.
sit at our circle.
wash our hands.
home for the day.

"It's Time to Nap" to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Time to rest, now walk your feet
And find your special place to sleep.
Grab your book and go lay down.
Listen to the music sound.
When the timer goes beep, beep,
We'll get up and stomp our feet.

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