

# Dear Parents,



Due to school closing, here are some fun activities you can do in lieu of music class. These activities will help develop your child's sense of beat, pitch, expression, and more. Feel free to complete one or all of the activities, they are meant to be a musical way to bond with your child!

Sincerely,

## Sing Me A Song

Sing one of your favorite childhood songs or rhymes to your child. Invite a grandparent to do the same! Sing the new song to them several times before they try it on their own. Singing (or chanting nursery rhymes), while bouncing, rocking, or tapping your child will also help them develop their sense of a steady beat. Bonus points for movements that go with the song or chant, such as with the fingerplay, "This Little Piggy Went to Market" or "The Itsy Bitsy Spider."

## I Can Sing A Solo

We do a lot of movement activities in class but here are some songs and chants we've also been working on recently. Ask your child to sing or teach them to you! The more they sing alone, the more independent they will become as musicians.





## Storytime

Find a book to sing to your child, such as "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," or "There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly." Since a trip to the library is not an option, find a book in your home with various characters and change the pitch and tone of your voice to represent the different characters. Find opportunities to read loud or soft, slow or fast, low or high, etc.

## Listen & Draw

Have students listen to music that conjures up specific images that correlate with the music (program music) such as "Flight of the Bumblebee" and draw what they hear. You can also use soundtracks to movies such as **Star Wars** or **The Incredibles**.

## Moving To Music

Have students move silently around the room to a few movements from Camille Saint-Saens's "Carnival of the Animals" as if they were the animals portrayed in that movement.

## Make An Instrument

Make percussive instruments from things found in the house or outside that you can hit, shake, or scrape. Play the instruments to your child's favorite playlist. If you make several instruments, play some behind your child's back to see if they can guess which instrument you played.

## Singing Squiggles

Have your child draw some squiggly lines and trace them with their fingers while having their voices go up and down along the lines. You can use a neutral syllable like "oo" or "wee." You can also bend pipe cleaners into squiggly shapes to sing. This is a basic form of graphic notation that leads to a smoother transition into reading music.

## I Made It Up

Have your child tell you about what they did today, what they ate, who they saw, etc. but in a singing voice where they improvise the tune. Sing back to them!