

Action Songs Children Love

Volume 3: Grades 2-5

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1. A Wuni Kuni

camp song

A Wu - ni Ku - ni Kai ai Wu - ni Kai - ai - ai yi - pi
 Ai - ai - ai - ai A wu. A Wu - ni Ku - ni

First time:

hands on own knees
 hands on person to left
 hands on own knees
 hands on person to right
 hands on own knees

Second time:

hands on own knees
 hands crossed on own knees
 hands uncrossed on own knees
 left hand on knee of person to the left;
 right hand on the knee of the person on the right

Third time:

same as second time, except that instead of putting hands on the knees of the person on left and right, palms touch

Fourth time:

pat knees
 clap own hands
 pat knees
 hands cross on knees

pat knees
 clap own hands
 pat knees
 clap palms with neighbor

Fifth time:

tap floor, clap, tap floor, clap
 tap floor, clap, snap left, snap right

Later, when this is known well, try the whole song using rhythm sticks instead of hands.

Teaching Purpose:

- * beat
- * create new patterns

2. Categories

One two ca - te - go - ries tell me the name of cars,
 Ford Chev - y Chrys - ler...

Directions:

Sing the song with an ostinato: clap clap pat pat (♩ ♩ ♩ ♩)

The teacher fills in the category to begin. Any broad category works, for example, "musical instruments", "composers", "trees", "states", etc. Sit in a circle. Sing the above with the teacher filling in the category. The student to the right sings an answer after the claps of the subsequent ostinato, student #2 sings after the next claps, and so on until a miss. No answer can be repeated. If you miss, you go out, or must choose the next category.

Teaching Purpose:

- * beat, ostinato
- * thinking skills

5. Love Grows Under

traditional

Love grows un - der the wild oak tree. Su - gar melts like can - dy.
Top of the moun - tain shines like gold when you hug your lit - tle fel - low sort of han - dy.
Dreams, dreams, sweet dreams, un - der the wild oak tree.
Dreams, dreams, sweet dreams, one for you and one for me. Oh
love grows un - der the wild oak tree. Su - gar melts like can - dy.
Top of the moun - tain shines like gold, when you hug your lit - tle fel - low sort of han - dy.

Directions: Sing the song with the following 16 beat ostinato

beats 1-4: *pat pat clap clap*

beats 5-8: *scissor with left hand under, scissor with left hand over*

beats 9-12: *pound fists 2x, pound fists 2x with other hand on top*

beats 13-16: *hitch-hike 2x over left shoulder, hitch-hike 2x over right shoulder*

Repeat the pattern.

For a variation, try some of the patterns given for A Wuni Kuni on page 3.

Teaching Purpose:

- * beat
- * ostinato
- * ABA form
- * create new hand jive patterns to play with the song

6. Mama Don't Allow

traditional

Ma-ma don't 'low no sing - in' 'round here. Ma-ma don't 'low no sing - in' 'round here. Well we don't care what Ma - ma don't 'low, gon - na sing our heads off an - y old how. Ma-ma don't 'low no sing - in' 'round here.

2. Mama don't allow no hand clappin' 'round here.....
3. Mama don't allow no foot stompin' 'round here.....
4. Mama don't allow no finger snappin' 'round here.....
5. Mama don't allow no pat, clap snappin' 'round here.....

*clap hands to the beat
stomp feet to the beat
snap fingers to the beat
pat, clap snap each time*

Replace body percussion with unpitched instruments.

clap	woods
foot stompin'	drums
pat	shakes & scrapes
snaps	metals

1. Momma don't allow no woodblock playin' 'round here.....
2. Momma don't allow no drum playin' 'round here.....
3. Momma don't allow no shaker playin' 'round here.....
4. Momma don't allow no triangle playin' 'round here.....

Teaching Purpose:

- * beat
- * families of rhythm instruments, instrumental playing technique

7. I Can Sing a High Note

D. Gagne

I can sing a high note. I can sing down low. I can sing a mid-dle note too!
I like sing-ing way up high. I like sing-ing low. Now my sil-ly song is through!

Motions: reach up for the high notes, down for the low, and in the middle for the middle notes.

Teaching Purpose:

- * high / low sounds
- * developing head voice and in tune singing

12. George Washington Bridge

traditional

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: George Wash - ing - ton Bridge George Wash - ing - ton Wash - ing - ton Bridge. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

Directions: Learn the song well. Divide the class into three groups. One group sings only the word 'George', one group sings only 'Washington' and one group sings 'Bridge'. Stand when it is your turn to sing. Try it at a variety of tempos. Review tempo terms found on page 7.

Teaching Purpose:

- * Performing as part of an ensemble - singing only when it is your turn.
- * Tempo terms

