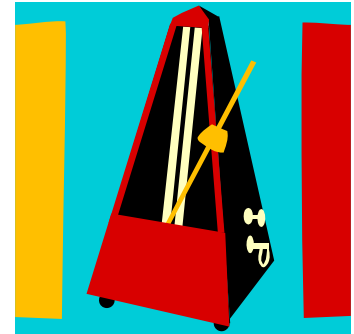


When I Hear the Music

This month's song is a simple exercise in keeping a steady beat. After singing with children for twenty-seven years, I am convinced the [ability to keep a steady beat](#) is crucial to language development, and in turn, early literacy. I have also noticed an alarming inability for children of all ages (and some adults!), to do this. When I sing with the youngest babies and children, I keep a steady beat on my thigh as we sing, and find children quickly feel the beat as they join me. As you sing this song with children, children will be able to concentrate on and practice keeping a steady beat with their whole bodies.



With 2-4 year-olds :

Practice each movement before you play the song. Do only one movement each verse.

With 5-year-olds and up:

Add each new movement, so by the last verse you are doing all movements. Drop off movements as lyrics indicate so you are only clapping hands by the end. This may take some practice, and lots of concentration!

My hands like to clap, my hands like to clap
When I hear the music, my hands like to clap

My toes like to tap, my toes like to tap
When I hear the music, my toes like to tap

My head likes to nod, my head likes to nod
When I hear the music, my head likes to nod

My shoulders like to move, my shoulders like to move
When I hear the music, my shoulders like to move

My body likes to sway, my body likes to sway
When I hear the music, my body likes to sway

My shoulders like to move,
My head likes to nod,
My toes like to tap,
My hands like to clap