



# TAKE-HOME STORYTIME: MUSIC

## Carnival of the Animals Activity

The composer Camille Saint Saens was a child prodigy, performing Beethoven from the age of 6! His *Carnival of the Animals* is a musical suite in 14 movements that each represent a different animal.

### Play a Game of Charades:

Put the names of animals featured in the song in a jar. Some include: **lion, hens/roosters, wild donkey, tortoise, elephant, swan, kangaroo, birds** ("aviary"), and **fish** ("aquarium"). One person chooses a name and then acts it out. Everyone has to guess which animal they chose. Then move around the room imitating that animal as you listen to the corresponding musical essay from *Carnival of the Animals*!

## Activity: DIY Instruments

Make a drum with pots and spoons, or cymbals with pot lids. Turn on your favorite music and let kids play and march along!  
(to make a home-made kazoo, cover a comb with parchment paper and hum into it!)

## Make Up Your Own Song

Take the melody of a familiar tune, (such as Row Row Row Your Boat) and choose your own words! This is particularly fun to do in the car, or when you are doing chores (like dishes)! Here is an example:  
(to the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

**Bump, bump, bump along**

**Driving down the road.**

**I'm so glad I'm here with you,**

**Instead of with a toad!**

(not a masterpiece but might elicit a laugh in a less than desirable situation!)



## Sensory Play with Music



ROCK BACK AND FORTH WITH A PARTNER

(letsplaymusic.com)

Rhythm and rhyme is such an important part of music! Rock back and forth with a partner while reciting a favorite nursery rhyme like Little Miss Muffet, Hey Diddle Diddle, or Mary Had a Little Lamb.

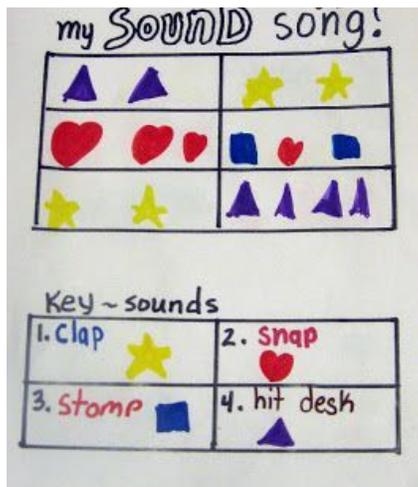
## Activity: Freeze Dance Game

**Children relate best to music through movement!**

**Play your favorite classical music (some ideas are listed below), and dance with props such as scarves, hula hoops, balls, streamers etc. Then, suddenly turn off the music. Take a picture of the silly pose! For more laughs try filming in slow motion.**

## Classical Music to Inspire Kids' Imaginations

- The Sorcerer's Apprentice by Paul Dukas
- The Nutcracker by Pyotr Tchaikovsky
- Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev
- Tritsch-Tratsch-Polka by Johann Strauss
- Carmen Suite #1: Les Toreadors by G. Bizet
- Syncopated Clock by Leroy Anderson
- Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi



## Draw your own music-making Rhythm Map!

(themusiclef.blogspot.com)