

The Music and Children's Literacy Connection

For students of all reading or literacy levels, music can help improve their skills without even recognizing it. As Patricia Stock put it, "literacy is the ability to use available symbol systems that are fundamental to learning and teaching - for the purposes of comprehending and composing- for the purposes of making and communicating meaning and knowledge" (Hansen et al. 2014). Just like the English language is made up of symbols and systems, so is music.

For that reason, there are many ways that your student can continue improving their literacy through music:

- Clap the syllables in a word the same way you would with rhythms.
- Listen to the words in a song and the story that it tells.
- Read the phrasing of a song the as if it were a work of poetry.
- Improves phonological skills: The ability to hear sounds that make up words in spoken language.

Hansen, Bernstorf, and Stuber. (2014). The Music and Literacy Connection.

Parker, P. (2016). Five things to know about music and early literacy. Retrieved from: <https://stateofopportunity.michiganradio.org/post/five-things-know-about-music-and-early-literacy>.