

God's Children Sing

GOD, MY FAMILY, AND ME



Living With
Music at Home

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Companion Materials:

- Teacher Recordings, available on cassette or CD
 - Focused Listening* (GCS, T1)
 - Tap, Dance, and Move* (GCS, T2)
- Two sets of materials for very young children and their families consisting of a cassette of songs, poetry, prayers and dances together with a parents' guide.
 - God, My Family, and Me* (GCS, A)
 - God's Wonderful World* (GCS, B)
- Two sets of materials for young children and their families consisting of 1) a cassette of songs, poetry, prayers, listening games and a Bible story; 2) eight full-color illustrated cards; and 3) a parents' guide. Each set is packaged in a colorful Guatemalan pouch.
 - Friends in God's World* (GCS, C)
 - Friends of Jesus* (GCS, D)

Dear Parents,

This collection of musical activities is a personal invitation to you, your child and family to share your faith in joyous celebration through music.

It is our view that your home establishes the most important learning environment in your child's lifetime. You, your child's first teacher, have a unique role in nurturing and supporting his/her exploration of the traditions and stories of your faith.

The suggestions in this booklet are intended to share specific ideas for becoming actively involved in a music experience with your child. Whether singing praises to God with instruments, rocking with a prayerful lullaby, or dancing to a spiritual song, these can be special times of sharing your faith through the gift of music. Such moments of closeness have a decisive role in strengthening the whole family.

As you become familiar with the songs and musical activities they will become part of your family's daily routine – a bedtime prayer, a mealtime blessing or a morning song of praise.

God's wonderful world of sound enfolds us always, so watch for opportunities to make musical sounds with your child as you play, walk, ride in the car, pray or tell stories. Create your own intimate musical experiences by responding to your child's interests and questions naturally.

May you find this recording and parents' guide a help in making your home a place where music is a part of everyday life. Making music together will play a significant role in your child's development of body, mind and spirit.

Fondly,
The Authors

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There's a Little Wheel

African-American Spiritual



There's a lit - tle wheel_ a - turn - in' in my heart. There's a



lit - tle wheel_ a - turn - in' in my heart. In my heart, _____ in my



heart, _____ There's a lit - tle wheel_ a - turn - in' in my heart.

Vs. 2: There's a little bell a-ringin' in my heart.

Vs. 3: There's a little drum a-beatin' in my heart.

Vs. 4: There's a little song a-singin' in my heart.

Recorded by: Children, Recorder, Guitar, Percussion

This is a good song for bouncing. Hold your child on your knees while you sit on a chair or on the floor with your legs outstretched. Bounce your child to the beat while singing the song. Your child will be stimulated by feeling the beat in his/her whole body and enjoy the close contact with you.

Another time, try varying the motions for the verses:

Vs. 1: "turnin'": roll the hands together

Vs. 2: "ringin'": rock from side to side

Vs. 3: "beatin'": tap hands on the lap

Vs. 4: "singin'": rock from front to back

Two Little Eyes

Two little eyes to look to God;
Two little ears to hear God's word;
Two little feet to walk God's ways;
Two little lips to sing God's praise;
Two little hands to do God's will;
And one little heart to love God still.

This traditional poem gives your child the opportunity to practice identifying different parts of the body. Touch the body part before saying the phrase to allow your child time to find that particular part of his/her own body before the words are spoken. As the verse becomes more familiar, wait for your child to name the body part first before you continue.

I Am Your Child

Iona Community
Scotland

This morning, God,
This is Your day.
I am Your child.
Show me Your way.
Amen

You may wish to use this poem with your child as a prayer at the beginning of the day.

Give Me Joy

Traditional



Give me joy in my heart, keep me prais-ing. Give me joy in my heart I



pray. Give me joy in my heart, keep me prais-ing. Keep me



prais-ing 'till the break of day. Sing ho-san-na sing ho-san-na,



sing ho-san-na to the King of Kings. King.

Recorded by: Soprano, Mandolin, Banjo, Piano

The joyful, rhythmic quality of this song makes it ideal for singing and playing instruments together. Add jingles, shakers, or rhythm sticks to the song and improvise verses accordingly: "Give me joy in my heart, keep me ringing, ..." "Give me... keep me tapping," etc.

Try moving around the room while you sing this song. Change the text to "Give me joy in my heart, keep me walking," and walk all around. Encourage your child to suggest other movements, such as "... keep me jumping," etc. *

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