



A Sound Foundation for your child

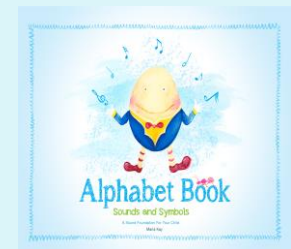
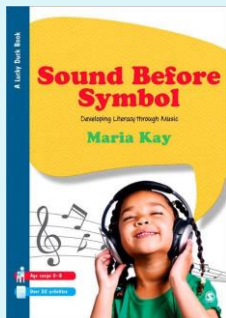


Literacy-through-Music

Discover the Power of Music to Enhance Your Practice

For all early years practitioners

Maria Kay



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Enquiries to: Maria@soundsandsymbols.co.uk

Music can be a powerful tool for helping to promote the important skills required for literacy

This presentation gives you an introduction to how music may be used to assist in the development of literacy skills for young children.

Visit Humpty



at

www.soundsandsymbols.co.uk

for:

- more information
- research on literacy through music
- free downloads
- the latest news on music and literacy projects
- ideas and
- resources

HOW TO USE THE PRESENTATION

- Use as a resource to demonstrate how children learn through play
- If you have internet access, follow the hyperlinks (highlighted in orange) to find out more!
- Whilst reading this presentation consider how you might use the ideas in your own practice.
- Each slide can be used as a basis for further discussion.

Research to support the use of musical activities as a vehicle for literacy skill development is proliferating. Links to some of this research may be found at the end of the presentation.

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Literacy



What is Literacy?

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

The literacy of a nation has important implications on its future productivity and prosperity.

The early years (0-8) are the most vital for development.

As an early years practitioner your input will greatly influence the next generation!

A stimulating environment creates opportunity for learning.

One way to create such an environment is through music!

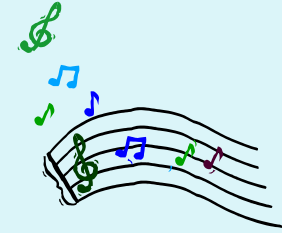
1 in 6 people in the UK struggle with literacy
(NLT)

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Music



- Music is peculiar to and natural to humans
- Musical activities can provide a vehicle for the delivery of many skills
- We have a natural desire to move to music
- Music and language are closely related and can be used to support each other
- Music may even pre-date language
- Music should be **PIVOTAL** not peripheral to the curriculum!



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How are **M**usic and Literacy Related?

Music and literacy both have:

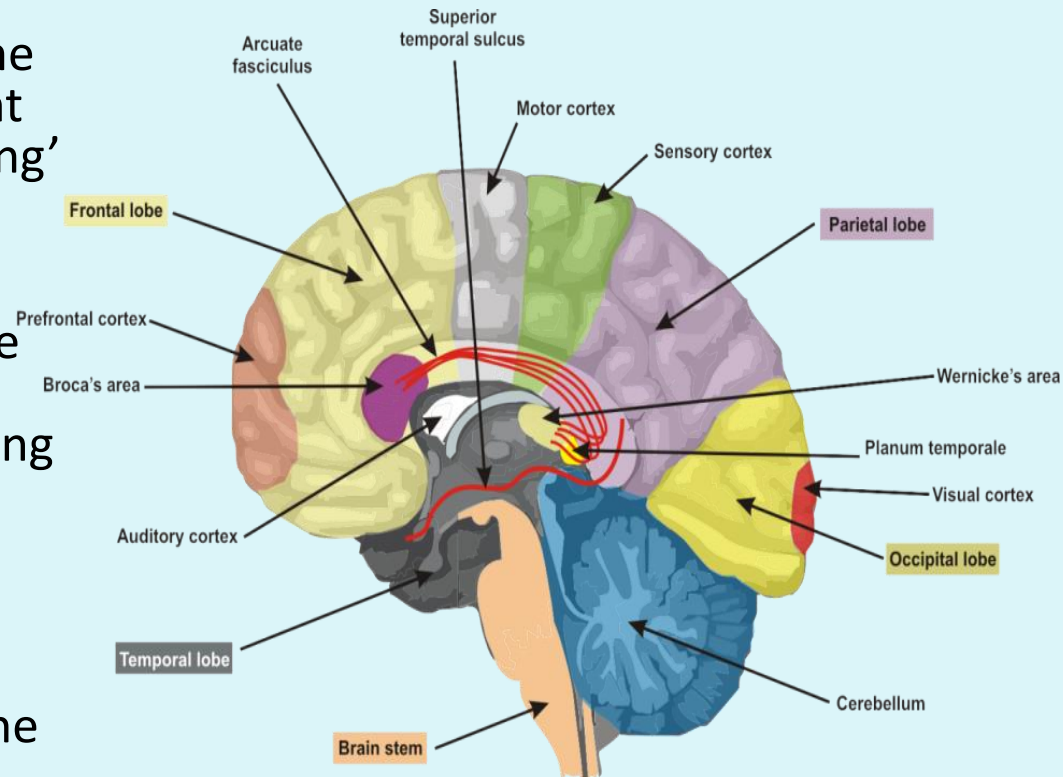
- Rhythm
- Structure
- Fluency
- Pitch
- Patterns
- Rules of composition
- Sound-symbol correspondence and much **more!**

All the skills required for literacy may be practised through musical activities before children are taught to read or write; thereby laying the foundations for future success!



How Does the Brain Process Music and Language?

- Music and language require the operation of both left and right hemispheres thereby 'exercising' both sides of the brain!
- Sammler (2010) found that the brain processes music and language together when hearing a song but then decodes the lyrics and treats the music separately.
- Discover how you can 'feed' the brain with music in the book - **Sound Before Symbol!**



Music helps language acquisition and memory

Sing this song and learn the words.

The music (The traditional tune to Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star) will no doubt help you to remember the words even though they are in a foreign language! (French)

Music aids memory and can help us to recall long sequences.

Tourne Tourne Le Moulin

Tourne, tourne le moulin,
Claque, claque dans les mains,
Nage, nage le poisson,
Vole, vole papillon.



Adding visual stimulus and actions further assists memory retention.

Actions to this song and the English translation, can be found on the [Sounds and Symbols](https://www.soundsandsymbols.co.uk/) website.

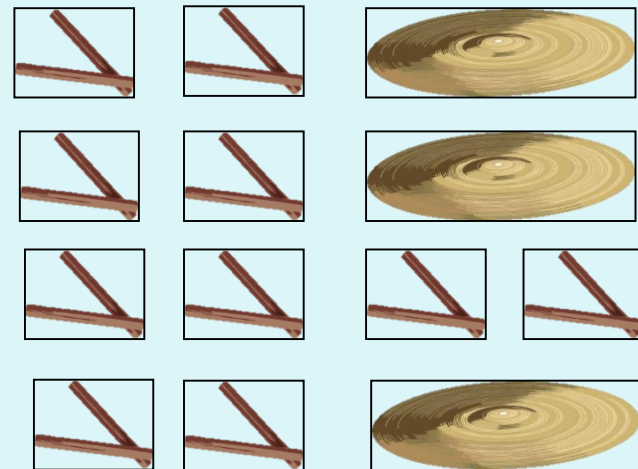
Sample Activity

- **Reading Symbols**

- Before children learn to read they need to learn about text. For example, that it is read from left to right.
- Before children learn to read words they can 'read' symbols.
- This activity also helps children to develop listening and motor skills as well as learning about timing and working together.

Task

- Give children either claves or a cymbal and ask them to play as you point to each symbol.



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Music Can Help to Teach Reading!



- Specially designed and delivered musical activities can help children to become competent at all the skills which are required for listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Find out how in **Sound Before Symbol!**

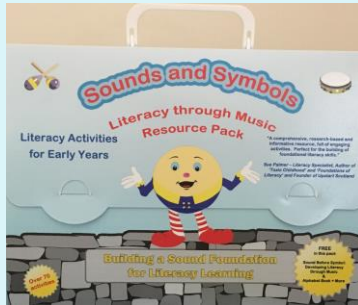
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What Can YOU Do?

Purchase a Sounds and Symbols – Literacy-through-Music Resource Pack



£489

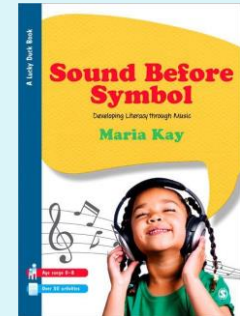
and learn how to secure a literacy foundation, with confidence, through easy to learn musical activities.

Sounds and Symbols activities promote:

- Cognitive skills – comprehension, sequencing, memory, prediction and rapid automatised naming (RAN)
- Language skills – listening and speaking + phonological awareness + prosodic awareness
- Motor skills – gross and fine motor skills
- Social skills – turn taking, communication, self-regulation
- Learning about books and text.

Lecturers!

Ensure that is on your recommended reading list.



Students!

Improve your understanding of how children become literate and learn how to support literacy learning through musical activities.

Start a business of your own and become a presenter of

Sounds and Symbols



Visit:

www.soundsandsymbols.co.uk for further information

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The New Sounds and Symbols Literacy-through-Music Resource Pack

For:

All early years practitioners in

- ✓ nurseries
- ✓ family centres
- ✓ early years centres
- ✓ special needs units
- ✓ primary schools (up to P3)
- ✓ Speech and language centres
- ✓ pre-school centres
- ✓ playgroups
- ✓ mother and toddler groups

Also ideal to help children whose second language is English

or

anyone wishing to set up a business delivering sessions

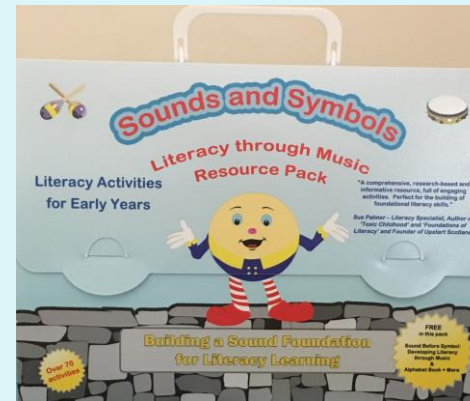
S & S activities are inclusive

S & S activities link language, music and movement

S & S activities are engaging and fun!



A Sound Foundation for your child



Children learn through movement and doing

Movement and music stimulate the brain

Children learn when they are motivated



Learn what children need to become literate ✓



Learn how to promote these requirements ✓



Keep up-to-date with the latest research ✓

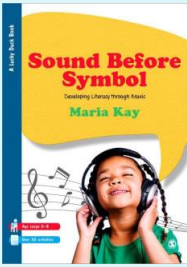


Help hundreds of children to secure a sound literacy foundation? ✓

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Sound Before Symbol

Sound Before Symbol

is published by the award winning - SAGE Publications; this book is **unique**.

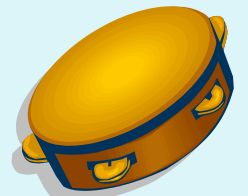
It is the **only** book to investigate the close relationship between music and literacy which is designed for early years practitioners.

Sound Before Symbol demonstrates:

- How music can teach literacy
- How music can be an invaluable resource for early years teachers
- How to use musical activities to achieve early literacy learning outcomes
- How even non-musicians can deliver musical sessions with confidence and ease!

Discount available **NOW** through the Store at:

[Sounds and Symbols](https://www.soundsandsymbols.co.uk)



Why Do You Need Musical Activities to Promote Literacy Skill Development?

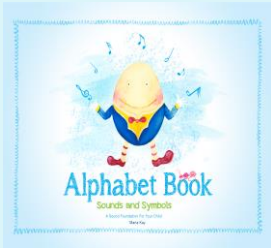


Children can enjoy music even pre-birth – it's the perfect medium for learning.

Sounds and Symbols helps you to:

- Learn why it is so important for children to listen to music
- Learn how to implement a wide variety of activities to help children to acquire vital skills
- Learn why the use of 'motherese' supports language development
- Discover how using non-verbal language can support communication skills
- Demonstrates how non-musicians can easily integrate musical activities into their practise
- Learn how to support speech development through music
- Develop skills which will support your work with **ALL** children
- Learn how to be a practitioner of excellence!
- Be ahead – with up-to-date knowledge
- Be able to deliver an effective early years curriculum





Sounds and Symbols



Sounds and Symbols offers

a range of 'literacy-through-music' activities and programmes for early years children, based upon the research in the book **Sound Before Symbol**.

The activities include:

- Songs
- Rhymes
- Playing instruments
- Moving to music
- Musical stories
- Development of important early literacy skills

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The music is specially arranged to facilitate ease of syllabification – a vital precursor to reading.

All the activities are designed to develop literacy skills and meet the requirements of National Curricula.

The programme is easy to deliver and the **Resource Pack** provides everything required.

If you would like to view evidence to support the value of musical activities to literacy development, see some of the research – **NEXT slide!**

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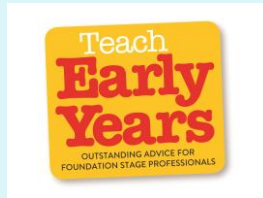
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Research proving the benefits of **integrating** musical activities into literacy learning is **proliferating**

[Science Daily](#) has many very recent articles advising of the benefits of music to the brain and ultimately literacy

Also take a look at:



available online at: [Teach Early Years](#)

for many articles by Maria Kay related to **literacy through music**

Previously - **Teach Nursery Magazine** – issue 3.3 mid April 2013 for a **series** of articles on **literacy through music** by Maria Kay

An article in [Harvard Business Review](#) (1 Nov, 2012) reported that learning about rhythm, pitch and melody for 20 days showed improvement in verbal intelligence scores in more than 90% of the children studied.

Supporting Research from 2016

- **Holliman (2016)** investigated the role of speech rhythm (prosody) sensitivity in reading acquisition.
- **Miller (2016)** explained how sound can be received as 'airborne sound'.
- **Zhao and Kuhl (2016)** reported how music impacts upon babies' language.
- **Goswami et al (2016)** showed that children who struggle with perceiving rhythm, perceiving prosody and tapping beats also struggle with literacy.
- **Wigfield (2016)** explained the importance of motivation in learning to read

Music is a versatile resource – learn how to make the most of it!

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