

Resources

Look for books in your local library or school library on music history, instruments, and songs. If there is a symphony or orchestra in your area, see whether you can arrange for a musician to come to a den meeting and talk about his or her instrument.

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How a Child's Singing Voice Develops

The Skill Ladder

1. Discovers his singing voice.
2. Approximates correct pitches.
3. Matches tones (pitches).
4. Learns to sing very short songs involving a small range.
5. Memorizes words of songs.
6. Increases ability to sing in tune.
7. Increases abilities in length, range, and musical difficulty.
8. Continues to improve tone quality.
9. Becomes an independent singer; can stay in tune as an accompaniment is played; can sing rounds, etc.
10. Sings expressively.
11. Enunciates well.
12. Learns to breathe in the appropriate places.
13. Sings two- and three-part harmony.

Wherever your child has progressed in the skill ladder, start there and have fun singing together.



Kinds of Music

Classical: Musical masterworks of the European tradition, such as symphonies, operas, concertos, and sonatas.

Country/western: Music that has its roots in Southern and Western rural America.

Folk: Traditional songs handed down among common people that tell stories and often have simple melodies.

Hymn: A religious song or sacred music of praise and joy, revering deity and spirituality.

Jazz: Music rooted in African American culture,

ragtime, and the blues, characterized by syncopated rhythms and improvisation.

March: Music that has its roots in the military and is most often used in ceremonial marching.

Nationalist: Music of a particular country—often patriotic.

Opera: A drama set to music that is entirely sung and accompanied by an orchestra.

Operetta: A romantic comic opera having spoken parts, songs, and dances.

Spiritual: A religious folk song of African American origin.