



Arts Resources Training & Support

Montgomery Complex

3315 Louisiana NE

Phone: 880-8297 Fax: 880-8287

Hours: 1-5 p.m. M - Th; 1-4 p.m. Friday

9-11:30 a.m. First Saturdays

Mornings by appointment.

Website: www.toknowart.com/apsarts/

ARTS Center Support Team

Karen McSorley, *Art Resource Teacher*

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Donna Moore, *Music Resource Teacher*

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Cynthia Wolf,

Library-Media Specialist/Resource Teacher

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ARTS Center Resources

- Arts books, videos, slides, musicals, art reproductions, CDs, cassettes
- Arts integration units prepared by ARTS Center staff
- Children's literature that integrates well with music and art

ARTS Center Services

- Workshops on art, music, dance, drama, and literature integration
- 1-on-1 consultations on arts curriculum planning
- Help plan arts integration units
- Firing clay for schools
- Finding that special song, art work or book

Singing Games by Donna Moore, ARTS Center Music Resource Teacher

All children love singing games! But did you know there is instructional rationale for using them — in addition to being “fun”?

Singing games can:

- ✓ build community
- ✓ give insight into one's own culture and the cultures of others
- ✓ teach universal lessons
- ✓ promote social interaction
- ✓ provide problem-solving opportunities
- ✓ combine music and singing with movement
- ✓ demonstrate that there is something to learn from all peoples
- ✓ convey knowledge
- ✓ involve physical dexterity and quick response
- ✓ involve numbering and sequencing opportunities
- ✓ improve verbal fluency

Games promote emotional learning through planned emotional experiences. Games activate joy, excitement, suspense, surprise, fear of loss, fear of being caught, or fear of not being chosen, and help students practice these emotions in a safe environment.

The movement and attention required by singing games promote learning on many levels. In *Arts with the Brain in Mind* author Eric Jensen states,

“... complex and novel movements involve most of the brain. We suddenly must make rapid decisions, keep our attention up, monitor our emotions, remember our past, be alert for potential problems, create solutions on the spot, keep our balance, watch the expression of other faces, move quickly and gracefully - and somehow still remember the point of the activity. All these locomotor, manipulative and cognitive activities are linked with developmental stages and academic learning at each grade level.”

The combining of singing with these games improves verbal fluency and expands affective response.

For young children, especially, Jensen stresses the importance of frequent changes of activities and more breaks from seatwork. What better break than a singing game!

The ARTS Center Library has several fine collections of singing games compiled by leading researchers in the field:

- *My Little Rooster and other Folk Songs, Singing Games and Play Parties*, by Jill Trinka
- *Zimbabwe Children's Singing Games*, compiled by Dr. Natalie J. Kreutzer
- *Put Your Hand on Your Hip and Let Your Backbone Slip*, by Bessie Jones - Singing games from the Georgia Sea Islands
- *Folk Songs, Singing Games and Play Parties*, Vol. II by Jill Trinka
- *The Magic Circle: Activity and Singing Games for Young Children*, by Isabel McNeil Carley
- *Singing Games Children Love*, by Denise Gagne

