



**An E-Book of
Song Descriptions
& Lyrics**

Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

About the Album

Ahjay Stelino's album "Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids" is a ready to use 30 minute music session for use by parents/caregivers, teachers and other professionals working with young people with special needs. It is available at a digital download through iTunes, Google Play, Amazon and Amplifier. It can be streamed through Spotify. Physical CDs are available through Amplifier. Further information about the album can be found at www.ahjaystelino.com.

About the Songs

Each song focuses on a single goal. The lyrical simplicity and musical accompaniment have been composed to ensure an engaging experience for the young person. It covers 6 main themes: Greetings, movement, instrument playing, anticipation, educational and vocalisation.

- Greetings: Tracks 1 & 14 are hello and goodbye songs which act as reminders that the music session is starting or ending.
- Motor Skills: Tracks 2 to 6 encourage motor skills. "Clap your Hands" is a clapping song. "Finger Dance" lets you wiggle your fingers. "Friends Forever is the time to dance and boogie. "Elephant Stomp" encourages you to stomp like an elephant. "Sway your Arms" is a chance to sway along with the music.
- Instrument Playing: Tracks 7 and 9 encourage accessible instrument playing. Play your bells along with "Shake Your Bells" and click and clack your castanet along with "Castanet o Castanet".
- Anticipation: Track 8, "I am a Crocodile" is an anticipation song. Hold out your arms like the jaws of a crocodile and build up to the SNAP at the end of the verse.
- Educational: Tracks 11 and 13 are educational songs providing fresh takes on alphabet and counting songs.
- Vocalisation: Tracks 10 & 12 are vocalisation songs "Monkey Monkey" and "The Family Song" provide the opportunity to encourage intentional vocalisation of vowel sounds and first words.

About the Recording

All songs have been composed and arranged by Ahjay Stelino. All songs were recorded, mixed and mastered by Ahjay Stelino at Stelino Studios, Auckland, New Zealand.

About Ahjay Stelino

Ahjay Stelino is a professional musician and registered music therapist based in Auckland, New Zealand (He is registered with the Music Therapy New Zealand registration board under his real name of Ajay Castelino). He currently works as a music therapist, songwriter and guitar tutor. More information about Ahjay can be found at www.ahjaystelino.com.

About this Book

This book contains the song descriptions and lyrics.

Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 1: Choo Choo Choo Hello

About the Song

This is a greeting song. It is common in music therapy to use consistent hello and goodbye songs for each session. They act as auditory cues to remind the young person that it is the start or end of music time. This song uses the analogy of a train as trains are a common favourite topic among children. The action to accompany this song is to move around the room like a train. Instruments to accompany the song could include train whistles. The lyrics of the chorus are repetitive to encourage intentional vocalisation.

Song Lyrics

Time for the music train to say
Choo choo choo hello
Chugging down the tracks
Hear that whistle blow
So if you wanna have some fun
Come on, sing along

Chorus

Choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo
Choo choo choo hello
Choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo
Choo choo choo hello
We're gonna have a real good time
Come along and stay a while
Choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo
Choo choo choo hello

Time for the music train to say
Choo choo choo hello
It's come into to the station
Ready for the show
So if you wanna have some fun
Come on, sing along

Repeat Chorus Twice

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 2: Clap My Hands

About the Song

This is a clapping song. It is important to use the music to assist anticipating when to clap. Listen to the music to hear the clap and try and clap along with it. You can choose to clap every alternate clap if the young person needs more time to co-ordinate this physical action.

Song Lyrics

Verse 1

I'm gonna clap clap
Clap my hands
Clap them together
The best I can
Clap clap
Make a sound
Clap clap
Here we go now

Repeat Verse 1

Verse 2

Clap
Oh clap
Oh clap
Oh clap
Oh clap

Repeat Verse 1 twice

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 3: Finger Dance

About the song

This song encourages finger movement. Wiggle your fingers along with the song. If the young person needs assistance, try placing your fingers under his/her fingers and move your fingers so that his/her fingers move along with yours.

Song Lyrics

Chorus

Gonna move my fingers
Make 'em shake
Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle
Yeah, that's the way
Ain't gonna stop it
No no no
Cause my fingers are doing
The finger dance so

Verse

Feel them grooving
Feel them dancing
Watch them go, go
Go, oh oh oh

Repeat Chorus

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 4: Friends Forever

About the Song

This is a dancing song. If the young person is in a wheelchair, the wheelchair can be moved around the room to the beat of the music.

Song Lyrics

Singing, dancing
Clapping, moving
It's a lot more fun
When I have a chum

Playing, running
Jumping, skipping
It's easier
When you are near
And

Chorus

Everything is better
When we are together
Everything is fine
When it's you and I
I wish that we will be
Friends forever
Oh, friends forever

Smiling, laughing
Grinning, giggling
You cheer me up
When I'm in a slump

Sharing, caring
Giving, helping
You're always there
When I'm scared
And

Repeat Chorus

It gets kinda lonely
Hanging on my own
So I just wanna
Tell you once more
That

Repeat Chorus

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Track 5: Elephant Stomp

About the Song

The aim of this song is to encourage stomping your feet. It is important to use the music to assist anticipating when to stomp. Stomp on the strong beats in the music. The words in bold underline in the lyrics below indicate the strong beats. You can choose to stomp on each strong beat or every alternate strong beat if the young person needs more time to co-ordinate this physical action.

Song Lyrics

Stomp stomp

The elephants are marching

With a stomp stomp

The jungle is shaking

With a stomp stomp

They're big and they're strong

And they stomp stomp

Let's join the

The elephant

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 6: Sway Your Arms

About the Song

This song encourages swaying your arms. The young person may require help getting the left and right directions correct.

Song Lyrics

Sway your arms from side to side
Sway them like a wind screen wipe
Sway your arms from side to side
Sway them like a wind screen wipe

Left to right and right to left
Left to right and right to left
Left to right and right to left
You're swaying so well

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Track 7: Ring Those Bells

About the Song

This song encourages playing the bells. The lyrics are repetitive and literal to assist the young person understand the intention of the song.

Song Lyrics

Ringa ringa ring
Ringa ring those bells
Those bells ringa ringa ringa
Ring those bells

Ringa ringa ring
Ringa ring those bells
Those bells ringa ringa ringa
Ring those bells

I love to ringa ringa ring
Ringa ring those bells
Bells I love to
Ringa ringa ring

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 8: I am a Crocodile

About the Song

This is an anticipation song. Move your arms like the mouth of a crocodile and lead up to giving the young person a big hug on the word “bite.” The song also acts as an educational song to teach your young person more about crocodiles.

Song Lyrics

I am a crocodile long and strong
And some little monkeys
Won't leave me alone
They've gotta be careful
They've gotta be kind
Otherwise I will bite

I am a crocodile I have a long mouth
Some little monkeys even call it a snout
In my snout
I have teeth so white
But don't try to touch them
Or I will bite

I am a crocodile I often cry
You see the tears running down my sides
But I'm not sad
I'm just washing my eyes
So don't try and hug me
Or I will bite

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 9: Castanet O Castanet

About the Song

This is a Spanish flavoured song composed to encourage castanet playing. It may seem lyrically more complex than the other songs, but the aim was to create an atmosphere of an evening in Spain to help encourage castanet playing. Ole!

Song Lyrics

Castanet o castanet
Your rhythm fills the room
Castanet o castanet
You're clickin' something good
Castanet o castanet
You sweep me down a lane
To where flamenco dancers
Dance the night away

Heels tap, skirts sway
Guitars sing, the band plays
The air is hot, the music's light
Where else would you want to be tonight?

Castanet o castanet
My fingers play your tune
Castanet o castanet
I follow the rhythm you choose
Castanet o castanet
Your fandangos are pulling me in
To where the Spanish lights
Are twinkling

Castanet o castanet
I love the songs we've played
Castanet o castanet
I love the music we've made
Castanet o castanet
When I hear a click or a clack
I'll always remember
The good times we had

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Track 10: The Family Song

About the Song

This is an intentional vocalisation song. It uses the family titles of ma, pa and ba in musically strategic positions to motivate the young person to vocalise these sounds. The other lyrics in the song such as car, goo goo, gaga and nana include vowel sounds which are the earliest sounds we vocalise and thus the child is more likely to copy them.

Song Lyrics

There was a ma ma ma
And a pa pa pa
And a little ba ba ba
When they were
In a car car car
The baby would goo goo
gaa gaa gaa
And sing

Na na na na
Na na na
Na na na na
Na
Na na na na
Na na na
Na na na na
Na

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Track 11: Let's Do Some Counting

About the Song

This song is a simple counting song. You can count along on the young person's or your fingers.

Song Lyrics

Let's do some counting
Let's count from one to ten
Let's do some counting
Ready, let's begin

One, two, three
Four, five, six
Seven, eight, nine
And ten and back down let's sing

Ten, nine, eight
Seven, six, five
Four, three, two
And one, well done my friend

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 12: Monkey Monkey

About the Song

This is an intentional vocalisation song. Early speech production uses vowel sounds. Therefore the chorus is based on vowel sounds to encourage intentional vocalisation.

Song Lyrics

Monkey, monkey
Sitting on a tree
Monkey, monkey
Singing to me
Monkey, monkey
Can I sing along?
He said, why not let's rock

Chorus

Oo oo oo
Oo oo oo
Oo oo oo aa aa
Oo oo oo
Oo oo oo
Oo oo oo aa aa

Monkey, monkey
We're having a ball
Monkey, monkey
Singing our song
Monkey, monkey
Tell everyone
To come join in our fun
All together now

Repeat Chorus x 3

Monkey, monkey
I've had a great time
Monkey, monkey
It's time to say bye
Monkey, monkey
Before I go
Let sing our song once more

Repeat Chorus

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Music Therapy Songs for Special Kids Song Description & Lyrics

Track 13: I Know my Alphabets

About the Song

This is an alphabet song. It can provide a fresh alternative to the traditional alphabet song.

Song Lyrics

ABCD
EFG
HIJK
LMNOP
QRS
TUV
WX
Y and Z

Yeah I know my alphabets
Yeah I know them well
Yeah I know my alphabets
So let's sing them again

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Track 14: Choo Choo Choo Goodbye

About the Song

This is a farewell song. It is common in music therapy to use consistent hello and goodbye songs for each session. They act as auditory cues to remind the young person that it is the start or end of music time. This song uses the analogy of a train as trains are a common favourite topic amongst children. The action to accompany this song is to move around the room like a train. Instruments to accompany the song could include train whistles. The lyrics of the chorus are repetitive to encourage intentional vocalisation.

Song Lyrics

Time for the music train to say
Choo choo choo goodbye
Heading out the station
Yeah I'm gonna ride
So if you've had
Lots of fun
Come on, sing along

Chorus

Choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo
Choo choo choo goodbye
Choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo
Choo choo choo goodbye
I'm sure we'll meet again sometime
But for now it's goodbye
Choo choo choo choo
Choo choo choo
Choo choo choo goodbye

Verse 2

Time for the music train to say
Choo choo choo goodbye
Heading for another town
See you later guys
So if you've had
A real good time
Sing along with all your might

Repeat Chorus Twice

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