

Xylophone



Xylophone

By M. Speranza and D. Ondishko

Tune – Down by the Station

BBCD#4, Track #63

*This song will help you and your children remember some of the basic rules and techniques for playing the xylophone. Use the picture as a visual cue for the children to get their bodies into the proper position. Their elbows should be raised slightly as if “riding a bicycle,” and the fist should be loose when holding the mallet. The xylophone can be placed on a carpeted area, with the child kneeling in front of it. The **longer bars (lower sounds) should be on the child’s left**. If you have a **short** table to place it on where children don’t have to reach up to play it, you can change the first line to, “Standing up tall to play the xylophone.”*

In pre-school, only adults should remove and replace bars, and it is advisable (especially in the beginning) to do this before the children arrive, rather than in front of them. Most pre-k children need frequent reminders not to take bars off, such as, “Only the grown-ups touch the bars.” Adults should lift the bars straight upward off the pegs, using two hands, one on each end of the bar.

*For this song, **take off all of the F, and B bars**, and if you wish, **D bars** as well. You can move the remaining bars together so that there are no spaces in between (see picture on right) or leave them as they are. The xylophone can be used in this configuration to accompany many Pre-K songs (you can print the list on the last page).*

COR Advantage: J – Fine motor skills, T – Geometry/Spatial Awareness (xylophone bar shape and position of longest to shortest), Y – Music, Z - Movement

Up on my knees to play the xylophone,
I use the mallets to make a pretty tone,
I tap very gently in the middle of the bar,
I play the xylophone just like a star!

Xylophone with C, E, G, A bars on

First few notes of melody (to help you get your starting pitch!)

<i>A Tisket, a Tasket</i>	<i>A G E A G E</i>
<i>Barney (I Love You)</i>	<i>G E G</i>
<i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear</i>	<i>G E G E</i>
<i>Down by the Station</i>	<i>C C D E E</i>
<i>Farmer in the Dell</i>	<i>G C C C C C D E E E</i>
<i>Frère Jacques</i>	<i>C D E C</i>
<i>Hickety Pickety Bumblebee</i>	<i>G G G E E E G G E</i>
<i>It's Raining, It's Pouring</i>	<i>A G E A G E</i>
<i>Itsy Bitsy Spider</i>	<i>C C C D E E</i>
<i>Nibble, Nibble, Nibble Goes</i>	<i>E E E D D C C</i>
<i>the Mouse in my Heart</i>	
<i>Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Nice and Fat</i>	<i>C E C E C G</i>
<i>Rain, Rain, Go Away</i>	<i>G E G G E</i>
<i>Ring Around the Rosy</i>	<i>G G E A G E G E G G E</i>
<i>Row, Row, Row Your Boat</i>	<i>C C C D E</i>
<i>Somebody Loves Me</i>	<i>C C D C C G G A G</i>
<i>Shawn Wore a Red Shirt</i>	<i>C C D E G</i>
<i>Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star</i>	<i>C C G G</i>
<i>Where is Thumbkin?</i>	<i>C D E C</i>
<i>Xylophone Song (tune: Down by the Station – see above)</i>	

Note – Try all of your piggy-back songs that go with the melodies above, too!

The xylophone will also sound fine with all chants, including those below, because there is no “interference” as there might be with some melodies.

Five Little Monkeys Jumpin’ on the Bed, Five Little Monkeys Swingin’ in a Tree, Music Sign (Stop and Go), Grocery Store, Ladybug, Ladybug