

Clean Up Songs and Chants

Cleaning up can be a difficult time for teachers and students, but music can help keep your classroom relatively calm. At circle time, remind the children which Clean-up song will be used that day so that they can be listening for your cue. You can begin by flicking the lights or using an instrument such as finger cymbals to get their attention. Avoid using praise (“I like the way Timothy is cleaning up”) and instead use words of observation and reasoning (“I see Timothy cleaning the block area so that it’s ready for us to use tomorrow.”) Songs are traditional or of unknown origin unless otherwise specified.

“Barney’s Clean Up Song”

Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere,
Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share.

“Clean Up Little Star” (Tune – “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”) (BB CD#3 – Track #2)

Clean up, clean up little star, stop and clean up where you are.
Time to put the toys away, we’ll get them out *another day*. (or “later today”)
Clean up clean up little star, stop and clean up where you are!

“Clean Up Girls, Clean Up Boys” From RCN Honeybee Room (Tune – “This Old Man”) (BB CD#3 – Track #3)

Clean up girls, clean up boys,
Clean up all the blocks and toys,
Don’t forget the dishes and the cups,
That’s the way we all clean up!

“The Clock on the Wall” (BB CD#3 – Track #39)

(The) clock on the wall says it’s time to stop,
Time to stop, time to stop!
The clock on the wall says it’s time to stop.
It’s time for clean up. (or *other activity, i.e. circle*)

“Heigh Ho Cleanup” (Tune: “Heigh Ho” from “Snow White”) (BB CD#3 – Track # 4)

Heigh ho, heigh ho, it’s clean-up time we know,
We’ll do our best, then help the rest, heigh ho, heigh ho.

“I See Children Cleaning Up” (BB CD#3 – Track #5 and 6)

I see Darrin cleaning up the blocks, I see Terrence cleaning the train,
I see Lucia cleaning the dolls, they’re cleaning up our room.

“Put Your Books on the Shelf” (BB CD#3 – Track #7)

Put your books on the shelf, on the shelf,
Put your books on the shelf, on the shelf,
Put your books on the shelf, you can do it by yourself,
Put your books on the shelf, on the shelf!

(or)

Put your books and your puzzles on the shelf
Put your books and your puzzles on the shelf
Put them all on the shelf, you can do it by yourself,
Put your books and your puzzles on the shelf!

*“Helping Hands,” M. Speranza (Tune – “Do You Know the Muffin Man?”)
(BB CD#3 – Track #8)*

We will use our helping hands, helping hands, helping hands,
We will use our helping hands to clean up the room.
Timmy’s using helping hands, Tanya’s using helping hands,
Carrie’s using helping hands, they’re cleaning up the room.

*“Yankee Clean-Up,” by Maxine Smith, ABC Head Start (Tune – “Yankee Doodle?”)
(BB CD#3 – Track #9)*

Now it’s time to clean the room, I know you’re having fun,
It only takes a little while to get the work all done!
I see Alexa cleaning up, I see Taniya cleaning up,
I see William cleaning up, they’re cleaning up our room!