

Dailey, Susan M. *Sing a Song of Storytime*. New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers Inc., 2007. 199p. \$65.00 (ISBN: 978-1-55570-576-3)

From the author of *A Storytime Year: A month-to-month kit for preschool programming* comes a new book, *Sing a Song of Storytime*, a guide to introducing music into your storytimes and programming. In this new book, Susan Dailey does a thorough job of describing the importance of music in children's storytimes and programming. Indeed, music assists with phonological development, one of the six early literacy skills focused on in *Every Child Ready to Read*.

Sing a Song of Storytime is organized into six chapters and three indices are provided. Chapter one discusses the value and importance of music in early childhood development and provides suggestions on when and how to use songs in your programming, such as a quiet-down activity, during a name tag activity, as a participation activity, or through stories. Useful tips are provided to encourage reluctant singers. Eighty songs and storytime programs are found in chapters two through five, and include original songs by Dailey, adaptations on old favorites, traditional songs and chants, as well as some great book suggestions that are begging to be sung. The programs in these chapters contain the song title and musical attribution (original or traditional), storytime theme(s), track number of where the song can be found on the CD, sheet music and lyrics for the song, song presentation tips, program tips, picture book suggestions, and occasionally a flannel board or visual aid. Chapter six features a list of sources to support the materials in the book. Included here are additional "singable" books, a list of recommended recordings and sources for program planning. The indices allow you to search by book title, author, or storytime theme.

The CD provided with the book contains 63 songs, which is especially helpful for those of us who are musically challenged. The songs can be used as a reference or can be played during a program. Not included on the CD are traditional songs and chants that can be easily found on other recordings as well as the "singable" stories (with the exception of one original story). Also on the CD are downloadable patterns for flannel boards mentioned in the programs. One downside to the CD is that it does not allow you to play the music on your computer; you can only access the patterns. The CD must be inserted into a CD player to hear the music.

This book was designed for librarians, preschool and early elementary teachers, daycare providers, parents, and storytellers. I recommend this book for all of those audiences, but especially for children's librarians who want to add a little more pizzazz to their storytimes.

Reese Evenson
Children's Librarian
Jefferson County Public Library