

This special workshop was presented by Mr. Matt Mazur of Turtle Dance Music and AutismFriendlyShows.com! Together, we explored how to incorporate more music into your at-home literacy routines.

1. Music can make reading more fun!
 - a. Take a book and sing the story in the tune of a common song like Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star; Row, Row, Row Your Boat; and Frere Jacques.
 - b. You can even set the story to a beat and rap a book!
 - c. See our workshop video for examples!
 - d. Mr. Matt sang to Anna Dewdney's *Llama Llama Nighty-Night*, *Llama Llama Hoppity-Hop* and *Llama Llama Zippity-Zoom*, Jane Cabrera's *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*, and rapped to Alice Schertle's *Little Blue Truck Leads the Way*. Try it out at home!



2. Benefits of incorporating music into your everyday routine
 - a. Songs introduce new words into your child's vocabulary, increase awareness of the smaller sounds within words, and improve narrative skills
 - b. Songs can help improve counting and math skills
 - c. Songs promote empathy and socio-emotional learning
 - d. The Music-Science Lab at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev found that children who played hand clapping games had better cognitive and social skills than those who didn't



3. Other ways to bring music into your home:
 - a. [YouTube Karaoke for kids...and for parents!](#)
 - i. Karaoke is a great way to sing songs **AND** read along!
 - ii. Songs can be found in MULTIPLE languages. Just include the language of your choice in the search bar.



- b. [Groove Pizza](#): This drum kit is in the shape of a pizza. Have fun and create some catchy beats!
- c. [Aqwertyon Keyboard](#): Turn your keyboard into a piano!
- d. [Yousician](#): Learn an instrument online with this app! (Free 7-day trial).
- e. [The Melody Book](#): An app that adds excellent music to storybooks!
- f. [Meludia](#): Develop music listening skills on this website (for elementary and middle school students).
- g. [MusicFirst](#): An online music education platform



4. Tips for working with children with autism
 - a. Follow the child's lead: pick books based on topics they are interested in!
 - b. Find books with realistic pictures and avoid books with abstract words like some of Dr. Seuss's books.
 - c. Simplify the books: use 1-3 word phrases to describe what's happening in the pictures
 - d. Incorporate movement and music into the story with the tips above!



- i. You can pick books that turn popular songs like Jane Cabrera's *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* that was presented in the workshop!

5. For more with Turtle, Dance, Music, tune into Mr. Matt's weekday livestream shows!

10:00am – The Music, Bubble, and Comedy Show

12:30pm – Space: The Cosmos for Kids

3:00pm – Songs that Count!



Follow Mr. Matt on Instagram @TurtleDanceMusic and find him on Facebook @
www.facebook.com/TurtleDanceMusic