



Series 1. Episode 3

Turning *Little Stones* show notes

Listen to a conversation about their musical adventures with one year old Josiah.

PART 2

Musical Adventures with Hannah and Jonny

Thinking about our child's soundscape?

Although very musical, Hannah and Jonny do not have music playing all the time. The TV is not on, music/radio is not playing in the background.

This means that even busy days include times of quiet. Silence is an essential part of music.

Josiah chooses when to make musical sounds with what he has.

Hannah introduces us to one device he has, a yoto, a screen free device allowing children to make suitable audio or musical choices. Josiah selects what he wants to hear... a story, piece of music or song.

He demonstrated this today; responding to Ragtime with full bodied bops!

Adult responses

Jonny and Hannah join in the Ragtime bops, dancing, singing. It was a shared joyous activity and reminds us to let go of our inhibitions.

Hannah mentioned Broadway Babies, a local group where little ones and their carers can together, enjoying the physical sensation of moving and music.

A word to sing-shy carers...

Jonny admits he is not the best singer, but he does sing to Josiah. He knows how important it is... "your child needs to hear a range of pitches. To your baby, "you have the best singing voice they've ever heard".

(There is also the huge weight of evidence clearly showing the benefits of music for children's overall development).

Some tips for the sing-shy...

- Start by singing quietly
- Practise on your own
- Find your pitch. Usually, we need to take the starting note down a bit until we find the pitch that best suits us.

Try making up songs that fit with what you're doing anyway – changing a nappy, towel drying after a bath...

Enjoy watching the film 'Elf' – Will Ferrell is an inspiration!

Noticing how Josiah changed as a 1-year-old

"He certainly began taking the lead – now he begins his day at the keyboard before breakfast".

Jonny realises that by doing so he is independently exploring pitch---low and high notes as he 'sings' along to the music he makes.



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Instruments and toys

Jonny and Hannah have:

A cheaper keyboard that they allow him to play at will. (Electronic keyboards are always in tune. Children learn good pitch).

More expensive instruments which they use for work and performance. Josiah is included. He watches adults play their more expensive instruments. By doing so, he is learning to treat instruments with respect. He is fascinated by family members playing their instruments and is absorbing the skills that they model, such as how to gently strum a guitar etc.

Hannah reflects, "we don't have many noisy toys... or toy instruments".

They see the greater value in exploring making music with whatever is around.... empty milk plastic bottles and pots... All with the added benefit at the end of the day.... into the recycling bin!

They see a distinction between toys that make a noise simply by pressing a button... They have their place, such as on car journeys. But they notice that he responds passively rather than exploring imaginatively.

Books....

Books that support young children in their early musical journey can include those with:

Repeated refrains

Filling the gaps, such as Old Macdonald

Good rhythms, such as 'On the Farm' & 'Pip the Puppy' by Axel Scheffler

Rhyme, 'Acorn Wood' series by Julia Donaldson

A favourite of Hannah's (& Josiah's) is 'The Diddle that Dugged' by Kes Gray

Final words on musical adventures...

Remember to be spontaneous and have fun... seeing sound and music through their eyes... It's very easy to be impatient and stop them. But they are exploring and it's new to them...it's about seeing their wonder... and changing our mindset. Enjoy their music making and notice what they are doing!

Further information, practical guidance and advice are available through

Turning Little Stones

Delving a little Deeper

See website for details