



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

## Virtual Module: My Family Plays Music

This module is written for staff to guide youth through home based literacy and musical experiences based on *My Family Plays Music*, by Judy Cox; and *Because*, by Mo Willems.

Ages

**6 & Up**

**1**

week

# Summer Brain Gain READ

# Introduction



# INTRODUCTION

## How To Use This Module

This module is written for staff to guide youth through home based literacy and musical experiences based on *My Family Plays Music*, by Judy Cox; and *Because*, by Mo Willems. Staff can send home copies of these activities or post them online. It is helpful for staff to read these books aloud online for youth, as a foundation for the activities; however, both can be found online. Provide a place for youth to upload pictures or recordings of their work to share with others. This is a key part of building and maintaining connection with youth and their families. It will also allow youth to inspire one another.

## Literacy Strategies

During this module, readers will...

- Listening
- Communicating (interview and survey)
- Recognizing cause and effect
- Making connections between the text and their own lives

## Extensions

Extensions for individual youth are included daily in each activity.

Clubs and Youth Centers could also use this as an opportunity to feature local musicians. Recruit those who will talk about their musical journeys and who inspired them. Daily videos could be posted during the week to highlight a variety of musical genre.

# INTRODUCTION

<b>Overview</b>	Youth will listen to “My Family Plays Music” through an online reading experience. This will be the springboard into learning more about their own family’s musical heritage and the opportunity to create music themselves.
<b>Guiding Questions</b>	What kind of music does your family enjoy? What else does your family enjoy doing and can you do that together?
<b>Culminating Activity</b>	Youth will enjoy a musical celebration with their families and those they reside with.
<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Families Play Together</b> Youth will listen to “My Family Plays Music” read aloud and explore different types of music referenced in the book.
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>We Love Percussion!</b> Youth will talk about the words percussion and percussionist and spend time learning a percussion instrument
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Families Inspire One Another</b> Youth will listen to the book “Because” by Mo Willems as it is read aloud. Then they will interview family members or friends to learn about their musical journeys.
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Make Your Own Instrument</b> Youth will make their own instrument, using a variety of items available to them.
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>A Family Musical Celebration</b> Youth will enjoy time with family members and musicians, sharing their new pen tapping skills and family reflections.



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# My Family Plays Music



# CHOOSE YOUR GROOVE

## Today you will explore musical genres.

A genre is a style of music usually connected to a community. You will also learn more about your family members' interest in music. Think for a minute about the music you hear at your house. How many different styles of music do you hear every day? Does your family make music or mainly listen to music?

### SUPPLIES

- Pencil or pen
- Choose Your Groove Survey
- Book: **My Family Plays Music** by Judy Cox (optional)

### THE CHALLENGE

#### Step 1: Let's Read

- Start with reading a beautiful picture book about families and music, *My Family Plays Music*, by Judy Cox. You can find it here if you don't have a copy: [youtube.com/watch?v=oDIKQksaLio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDIKQksaLio)
- There are many different styles or genres of music in the book. Check out this video that has a little bit of each one. Which is your favorite? [youtube.com/watch?v=P9fNEkHg\\_Ek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9fNEkHg_Ek)

#### Step 2: Family Survey

- A survey is list of questions to help you learn about a group.
- Use the Choose Your Groove Survey to ask family members which musical genres are their favorites.
- Don't forget to add your favorites too!

#### Step 3: Time to Reflect

- What did you learn about your family?
- What's the same and what's different about your family members' answers.
- Which style of music would you like to learn more about?



Photo credit:

1. [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2Ffamily-CORETTA-STEPTOE-TALENT-ILLUSTRATOR%2Fdp%2F0823415910&psig=AOvVaw3u1Wzn6zkROYrOgGlf1XK&ust=1590697503773000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRqFwoTCoi3r4\\_w1OkCFQAAAAAAdAAAAABAP](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2Ffamily-CORETTA-STEPTOE-TALENT-ILLUSTRATOR%2Fdp%2F0823415910&psig=AOvVaw3u1Wzn6zkROYrOgGlf1XK&ust=1590697503773000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRqFwoTCoi3r4_w1OkCFQAAAAAAdAAAAABAP)
2. <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-jaajq>

### EXTENSIONS

- Ask a favorite grown up to help you make a play list of family music that everyone likes on a platform like [spotify.com/us/kids/](https://www.spotify.com/us/kids/) or [youtubekids.com/](https://www.youtubekids.com/). What will you name your playlist?

# CHOOSE YOUR GROOVE FAMILY SURVEY

## A Family Musical Survey

Ask your family members about their favorite music. You might ask them to play a favorite song for you.

<b>MUSICAL GENRE (STYLE)</b>	<b>FAMILY MEMBERS WHO LIKE</b>	<b>FAMILY MEMBERS WHO PLAY</b>
Country Western		
Classical		
Marching Band		
Rock N' Roll		
Jazz		
Big Band		
Bluegrass		
Polka		
Hymns/Gospel		
Spoken Word		
Hip Hop & Rap		

# WE LOVE PERCUSSION

In the story **My Family Plays Music**, the young girl plays along with all her relatives using different percussion instruments.

A percussion instrument is played by striking it with the hand or with something held, or by shaking it. Drums, cymbals, xylophones, gongs, bells, and rattles are all percussion instruments.

## SUPPLIES

- Sharpie marker—or another wide marker

## THE CHALLENGE

Step 1: Get Inspired

- People use so many different things to create percussion sounds in music. Today we will try it with markers.
- Check out this video using markers.: [youtu.be/mFDvtacJjYY](https://youtu.be/mFDvtacJjYY)

Step 2: Try It

- Work on making the different sounds. Can you create the bass drum, high hat, and the clap sound? You may need to watch the video a few times to remember the how to make the different sounds.
- Find a good place to create your beats. You want to find a surface that makes a loud sound. The bathroom sink often works or the hard cover of a book.
- Practice putting together the beats to make your own unique combinations.

Step 3: Time To Reflect

- What did you like about this activity?
- This looks easy but still takes practice. What did you do to keep yourself trying even if it got frustrating?
- What other percussion instruments would you like to try?

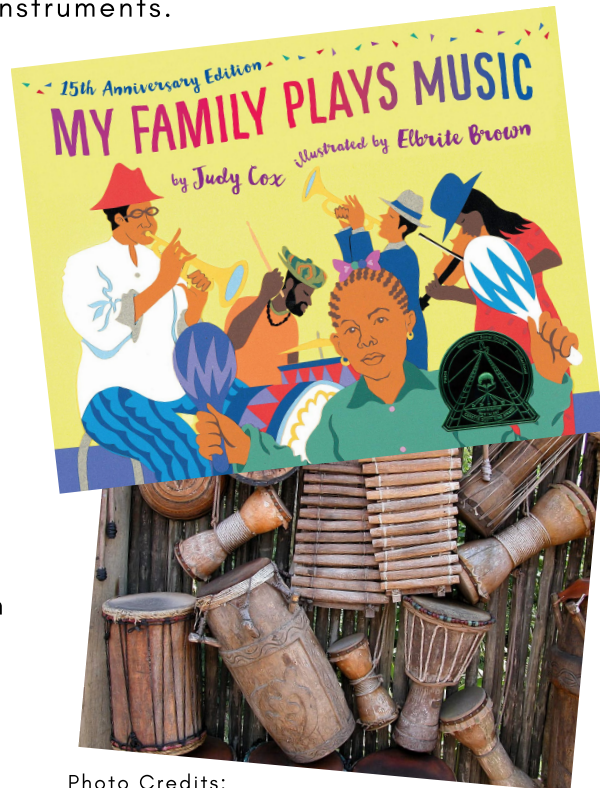


Photo Credits:

1. [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FFamily-CORETTA-STEPTOE-TALENT-ILLUSTRATOR%2Fdp%2F0823415910&psig=AOvVaw3u1Wzn6zkROYrQgGlf1XK&ust=1590697503773000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxaqFwoTCOi3r4\\_w1OkCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAP](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FFamily-CORETTA-STEPTOE-TALENT-ILLUSTRATOR%2Fdp%2F0823415910&psig=AOvVaw3u1Wzn6zkROYrQgGlf1XK&ust=1590697503773000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxaqFwoTCOi3r4_w1OkCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAP)
2. <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-ffcxj>

## EXTENSIONS

Tell a story about your family! Can you make it about music? Write your own or try this story maker:

[pbskids.org/pinkalicious/games/pinkcredible-story-maker.](https://pbskids.org/pinkalicious/games/pinkcredible-story-maker)



# BECAUSE

**You will create a story about a person who worked hard to be a musician.**

Things happen every day that introduce us to new people or new activities. You never know what will happen when you learn about something new.

## THE CHALLENGE

Step 1: Read About It

- Listen to *Because*, a book by Mo Willems, that explores how people and events can introduce us to important new things.
- You can find it here if you don't have a copy of the book:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l79uMugy2no>

Step 2: Plan Your Interview

- Think about the survey you did this week of your family members. Were any of them musicians? If not, do you or your family know any musicians? Your music teacher at school?
- Set up a time to talk to one of these musicians. Ask a grown up to help you if you need to call them or send an email.
- Then get busy making a list of questions about how they learned to play their instrument. Who inspired them? What is their music story?

Step 3: Interview A Musician

- Meet with your musician and ask your questions. Write down a few sentences or draw a picture that tells their story

Step 4: Time To Reflect

- What new thing did you learn about your friend or family member?
- How has learning about this musician's journey influenced you?

## SUPPLIES

**Because, a book by Mo Willems (Included below is also a link to a read aloud version online.)**

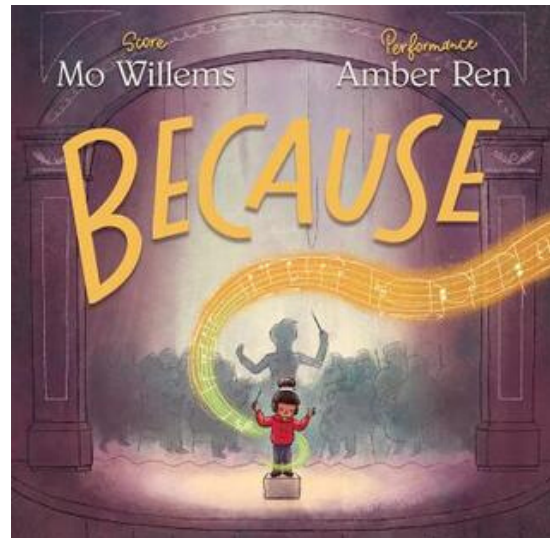


Photo Credits:

1. <https://nafme.org/music-in-our-schools-month-2020-ideas-for-the-classroom/>

## EXTENSIONS

Many people have careers in music. Check out these resources to learn more.

- YoYo Ma on Mr. Roger's Neighborhood [pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers/1415158009](https://pbskids.org/video/mister-rogers/1415158009)
- How to become a rap artist [study.com/articles/How to Become a Rap Artist Education and Career Roadmap.html](https://study.com/articles/How-to-Become-a-Rap-Artist-Education-and-Career-Roadmap.html)
- How to become a composer [study.com/articles/Become a Composer Education and Career Roadmap.html](https://study.com/articles/Become-a-Composer-Education-and-Career-Roadmap.html)

# MAKE YOUR OWN INSTRUMENT

**You will make your own instrument using household items.**

We worked on pen tapping as a way to play an instrument. What else could you use to make an instrument? You can find inspiration here: [youtu.be/qf9WRGD8E-k](https://youtu.be/qf9WRGD8E-k)

## SUPPLIES

- **Masking or duct tape**
- **Scissors**
- **Other supplies will vary by your design**

## THE CHALLENGE

### Step 1: Getting Started

- While you watched that video, which of his examples looked like something you would try?
- Walk around your house and see what you can find. That can guide your planning. Do you have a box, rubber bands, plastic container, or straws? Any of those can be a good place to start.

### Step 2: Make It!

- If you want to make a percussion instrument, experiment with different parts of the instrument. A shaker could have rice, beans, beads, or any other small item. A drum could have different sticks for hitting to get a different sound. Could you use a balloon for the top of the drum?
- If you wanted to make a string instrument, rubber bands may work for the strings. What could you stretch them across? Boxes work well, but what else could you try? Think about a round base—maybe a yogurt cup or other plastic food container?
- Take time to experiment with whatever you can find and then create some music to share.

### Step 3: Interview A Musician

- What inspired your design for your instrument?
- What would you change next time?
- What kind of instrument do you want to build next?



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1. <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-suprj>

## EXTENSIONS

- Try making your own harmonica!  
<https://myfuture.net/programs/Media-Making/Music-Producer/Make-an-Instrument>

# YOUR FAMILY PLAYS MUSIC

## Today you will plan a family music night!

You've explored a lot about music lately—let's share it with your family. First thing you need to do is check in with your family. Ask permission to host a fun night together.

### THE CHALLENGE

Step 1: Brainstorm Ideas For Your Family

- What do you want to share with your family from your work this week?
  - Share your beats from the pen tapping you did this week.
  - Teach other family members to pen tap.
  - Ask family members to perform or share some of their favorite music.
  - Listen to the family playlist.
  - Create your own family dance together and video it.

Step 2: Plan It Out and Make It Happen!

- Write out a plan for what you will do.
- You may not have time to do everything on your first list, so choose the things you think your family will enjoy.
- Pick a date. Make sure everyone knows the day and time.
- Ask someone else to bring some treats. Have fun!

Step 3: Interview A Musician

- What did your family enjoy about the music night?
- Which of these activities do you think you might do together again?
- What other things would you like to do with your family?

### SUPPLIES

- **Pen and paper**
- **Sharpie pen (optional)**
- **The instrument you made**



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1. <https://www.piqsels.com/en/public-domain-photo-flyek>

### EXTENSIONS

- Tell a story about your family! Can you make it about music? Write your own or try this story maker: [pbskids.org/pinkalicious/games/pinkcredible-story-maker](https://pbskids.org/pinkalicious/games/pinkcredible-story-maker)