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Ella Jenkins says music helps children mature, create

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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Ella Jenkins says music helps children mature, create" (1971). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 25114.
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ELLA JENKINS SAYS MUSIC
HELPS CHILDREN MATURE, CREATE

MISSOULA--

Aside from its entertainment value, music can also serve as a valuable tool in helping young children mature and become more creative, according to Ella Jenkins, recording artist and author who is scheduled to give a public performance at the University of Montana Wednesday evening.

Miss Jenkins will present her sing-along or call-and-response program for parents, teachers and the general public at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday (June 23) in the University Center Ballroom. Admission is free. The program will include songs, rhythms, rhymes and chants.

"Music can serve as a valuable method of reaching shy children if the method of teaching, such as the call-and-response style, helps them to become more creative and brings out a certain amount of happiness in them," Miss Jenkins said.

She said she feels it is most important to help children learn the rhythms of music, such as running, jumping, skipping, hopping, sliding and trotting.

"I am not so interested in having children of preschool ages learn notes and other formal parts of music," she explained, "because they will learn those things later on. The rhythms of music are much more important at young ages."

Miss Jenkins, who specializes in conducting workshops for preschool, Head Start, Day Care and elementary school teachers, said children enjoy repeating and imitating what the teacher does and creating their own sounds, therefore the call-and-response system of teaching seems to work well.

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She said the contemporary preschool child "is more sophisticated and he is able to retain sounds and utilize them as he steps up to other levels of music."

Miss Jenkins has recorded a number of children's records and she is author of "This is Rhythm" and "The Ella Jenkins Songbook for Children." She is presenting a workshop Monday and Tuesday of this week in Havre.

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