

# Teachers' Guide - "I've Got a Dinosaur on My Head!" Music CD

## (Educational / Curriculum Reference)

**Introduction:** Are you looking for fun, new ways to inspire your students' imaginations? Peter Apel's songs, related characters, and activity sheets can be used to introduce a wide number of topics in the classroom. These are kid-tested teaching aids used in circle times, classroom exercises, and for theme reinforcement. To illustrate, the song "I Love Bananas" song features Fred, a little spaceman who loves bananas because they have fiber and potassium. Teachers use this song while covering units on "space," "fruit" and "nutrition." The supplemental activity book helps by providing related coloring sheets (spaceship, Fred, Bananas) and exercises (maze, word search, "which spaceship is different?" etc.) that can be used with, or independently from the songs.

### Track 1: I've Got a Dinosaur On My Head!

This sing-along features a simple, catchy melody, fun animal sounds, and accelerating tempo; it has become a kid favorite and is requested at every live performance.

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**

Kids sing along with the music, trying to keep up with the increasing number of animal sounds and rapid tempo. Emphasis on a loud dinosaur "roar!" at the end of each verse can increase anticipation and participation. The kids sing this song enthusiastically when used in class performances for parents. **Alternative:** Once children are familiar with the song, the activity can easily be extended (without the CD) to include any animal sounds (or non animal sounds) build their own patterns. An example of non-animal sounds would be to use phonics ("I've got an 'A' on my head!" Instead of "roar!" substitute, "Ahhh!")

- **Educational Concepts:**

- Pattern recognition, Memory / Recall
- Sound recognition (matching animal sounds to animals)
- Circle time sing-along
- Imagination – creating own list of animals & sounds

### Track 2: The Laughing Song

A simple sing-along featuring fun and engaging words. Kids enjoy hearing the recorded voice of a small child laughing in the song.

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**

This song is just for fun. Kids sing the simple verses ("hee hee hee; ho ho ho..." etc.), but on an educational note, teachers can emphasize/practice the counting passages if desired.

- **Educational Concepts:**

- Mathematics (counting from one to ten and counting down from ten to one)
- Rhyming
- Alternative: Circle time movement (some kids enjoy jumping/dancing to this song and it has been called "the jumping up and down" song).

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## **Track 3: Sometimes I Have Oatmeal for Breakfast**

Children sing about putting various ingredients (raisins, brown sugar, nuts) on their oatmeal ("Sometimes I Have Oatmeal for Breakfast...with milk!"...Sometimes I put raisins in my oatmeal...with milk!"). Pattern builds with number of ingredients while tempo increases.

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**

Sing along with the CD as a basic sing-along, or without the CD, the kids can suggest new, fun, or silly ingredients. They just have to remember the order when they sing the next verse! Small group talk about nutrition/vocabulary: this song is the perfect introduction to a discussion of breakfast, whole grains, fiber, etc)

- **Educational Concepts:**

- Pattern recognition / pattern building / memory (as pattern length increases)

## **Track 4: Walking in a Circle**

This is a song to help get those kids up and moving around (was architected with suggestions from Peter's pre-school teacher wife and other teacher friends). Song starts with the kids sitting down. In the middle the children stand, stretch, stomp, walk, hop, and clap. There's even a stop/start sequence and a coordination challenge in the middle. By teacher request, the song transitions back to circle time by having the kids slow down and sit on the floor again.

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**

Review each motion with the kids before starting, and then have kids sit down before starting the music. The song provides instructions, but teacher guidance/participation helps kids to form the circle and to start each exercise.

- **Educational Concepts:**

- Movement: (stretch, stomp, walk, rub tummy, pat head, hop, clap)
- Coordination (walking while rubbing tummy and patting head simultaneously!)
- Transitional help: Starts with children sitting. Ends with children sitting.
- Relational concepts (Clapping to the left, right, behind the back, over the head. Louder. Lower. Move. Stop.)
- Mathematics: Circle "When you're walking in a circle, you never reach the end."

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## **Track 5: Blue Beef Broth**

This is a homemade tongue twister that evolved into a short musical story. Try to sing along as you hear how Grandma, Grandpa, and kids accidentally create this new concoction.

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**  
Review the short story line with the kids. Have them practice saying "Blue beef broth" three times. Then use as a sing-along. Change the story: Veggie version? What about "Red beet broth?"
- **Educational Concepts:**
  - Language: introduce idea of a tongue twister. Various names for soup (stew, broth).

## **Track 6: I Once Had a Balloon (But Then it Popped)**

- Sometimes we grow attached to people (or things) in our lives. The loss of that item (or person, or relationship) can be a struggle for us even if others don't share or understand our sense of loss. This song acknowledges that kids might actually go through these ups and downs just like the rest of us. Don't worry; the ending is not so sad. Well, it is, but the idea is to understand that there is comedy in some of our own misfortunes...to be able to laugh at yourself once in a while
- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**  
Listen to the song. Discuss how the child feels with the loss of each balloon. Discuss how the mom feels.
- **Educational Concepts:**
  - Social: Young kids along with the rest of us face loss occasionally. Friends move away, death of grandparents, etc.

## **Track 7: Eensy Weensy Spider (Traditional)**

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**  
Sing along with the song. Draw attention to the substitution of the name "Christopher" for "spider". Sing the song for several more verses, substituting names from the class.
- **Educational Concepts:**

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## Track 8: Train Whistles (sound effect)

- Sound effect of train whistles. Sound moves slowly from left to right speaker, simulating the crossing of a train at an intersection or train leaving a station.
- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**  
Use as a transition sound to prepare children for a train activity. Play sound, say "All aboard!" as children form a train (or circle).

## Track 9: Big Locomotive

Take a rhythmic and musical journey down the tracks and through a tunnel. Learn a bit about the types of cars on a railroad.

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**  
Kids form a circle, make wheel motions with their arms, make whistle noises with the song, go through a tunnel (two child volunteers or two teachers linking hands over head to make a "tunnel"). Practice arm motions and sounds before starting. Have kids hold onto a rope or similar item with one hand to help maintain spacing while train moves in a circle about the room.
- **Educational Concepts:**
  - Movement: Walking, moving arms, following the person in front.
  - Rhythm. Imagination.
  - Language/Vocabulary: Types of train cars, tracks, tunnel.

## Track 10: Peacocks Don't Lay Eggs

A humorous, musical science lesson, as well as a joke the kids can share with their parents. Spoiler alert → (Peacocks don't lay eggs. Peacocks are the males. PeaHENs lay the eggs!)

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**  
Review joke. Listen to/sing the song. Practice peacock call.
- **Educational Concepts:**
  - Science: Species is the peafowl, peacocks don't lay eggs, peahen lays the eggs.
  - Humor.

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## Track 11: I Love Bananas

A musical story: Little spaceman (Fred Pinsocket) flies down to earth and sings his favorite song, "I Love Bananas."

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**  
Listen to the song. Sing Fred's song. Draw pictures of the story: Spaceman, spaceship, bananas.
- **Educational Concepts:**
  - Nutrition: Bananas have fiber and potassium. Breakfast. Lunch.
  - Science: Bananas come in "bunches"

## Track 12: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (traditional with a twist)

Everybody knows Twinkle Twinkle the traditional way. Is it "up above the" or "hubba bubba"? You decide. Peter capitalizes on every young kid's desire to sing along even when they're not really sure of the words. Once you hear this version (or even better, see your kids' reactions in a live performance), it will be hard to sing it the old way again. Peter's "hubba bubba version" is highly requested at live performances.

- **Activity Ideas/Suggestions:**  
Have kids warm up before singing. "me me me me me me me..." Act surprised when they say "up above the" and say, "Hubba bubba!?" Have them start all over (example: Live performance sound clip online at [www.PeterApel.com](http://www.PeterApel.com))

## Do you have another idea to share?

We love to hear how the songs and activity book are being used, and we do our best to share these ideas with others. Please feel free to submit your ideas or check out new ideas from other teachers at: [www.PeterApel.com/TalkToUs](http://www.PeterApel.com/TalkToUs).