



Unit 1: In the Hood with Hymns: A Journey Through Rhythm and Rhyme

Overview: This unit introduces Ivory and Sage to the rich cultural heritage of Black music, rhythm, and rhyme. Centered around the theme of Hood Hymns, it explores how music and rhythm are woven into the fabric of Black communities, serving as tools for storytelling, expression, and unity. Through interactive activities, the children will learn about the power of hymns and spirituals, the sounds of their environment, and the role of music in community life.

This unit culminates in a special visit to the Kennedy Center, where they will experience and participate in the Hood Hymns feature performance, tying together all they have learned.

Core Objectives:

- **Language & Literacy:** Introduce and practice rhyming words, letter recognition, and sound association.
- **Math:** Focus on counting, sorting, and understanding basic number concepts.
- **Social-Emotional:** Identify and express emotions through music and movement.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Enhance coordination through activities like drawing, cutting, and crafting.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Connect to the heritage of Black music and community life.

The Rhythm of Our Names

Questions for the Week:

- What is rhythm?
- How does your name have a rhythm?

Goals:

Children will learn about the rhythm in their names, understand the concept of rhyming, and explore how

names can be part of music. They will practice phonemic awareness, the sounds of letters, and how to clap their names to a beat, ultimately creating a name song.

Additional Tools and Resources

- [Miss Monica Name Sing A Long](#)

Read Aloud	Things to Talk About	Learning Activity	Easy Activity	Core Objectives
<p><u><i>I Got the Rhythm</i></u> <u>by Connie Schofield-Morrison</u></p>	<p>Discuss: What is rhythm? Can you find the rhythm in your name?</p>	<p>Name Clapping: Practice clapping the syllables in each child's name. Count the claps and talk about how each name has a unique rhythm.</p>	<p>Art: Create a rhythm collage using pictures and symbols that represent the rhythm in their names.</p>	<p>Language & Literacy: Phonemic awareness of syllables in names.</p> <p>Social-Emotional: Building self-awareness and pride in their names.</p>
<p><u><i>Chrysanthemum</i></u> <u>by Kevin Henkes</u></p>	<p>Talk about: How is your name special? Does it have a rhythm?</p>	<p>Name Song Creation: Work together to create a simple song using the rhythm of each child's name. Add a simple beat using instruments or clapping.</p>	<p>Music: Use simple instruments or hands to tap out the rhythm of each name. Encourage children to take turns leading the group in their name song.</p>	<p>Language & Literacy: Sound association and phonemic practice with name letters.</p> <p>Social-Emotional: Encouraging self-expression and creativity.</p>
<p><u><i>Please, Baby, Please</i></u> <u>by Spike Lee</u></p>	<p>Explore: What rhymes with your name?</p>	<p>Rhyming Game: Find words that rhyme with each child's name. Use these words to add verses to the name song created on Tuesday.</p>	<p>Art: Create a name poster with the name, rhyming words, and musical notes.</p>	<p>Language & Literacy: Developing rhyming skills and letter recognition.</p> <p>Math: Counting syllables and rhyming words.</p>
<p><u><i>Jazz Baby</i></u> <u>by Lisa Wheeler</u></p>	<p>Review: How does your name have a rhythm? Can you sing it?</p>	<p>Letter Sounds: Practice the sounds of the first letter of</p>	<p>Letters: Create letter flashcards with the first letter of each</p>	<p>Language & Literacy: Phonemic awareness and sound association.</p>

		each child's name. Find other words that start with the same letter and add them to the name song.	child's name and use them to reinforce letter sound recognition.	Social-Emotional: Reinforcing name identity and self-confidence.
<u>I Am Perfectly</u> <u>Designed by</u> <u>Karamo Brown</u>	Reflect: How does rhythm make your name special?	Performance Practice: Each child performs their name song for the group, using the rhythm and rhymes they've learned.	Art: Make a musical name badge that they can wear, representing the rhythm and beat of their name.	Fine Motor: Strengthening motor skills through crafting. Social-Emotional: Building confidence through performance.

Weekly Summary:

This week, Ivory and Sage will explore the rhythm in their names through a variety of activities that combine music, literacy, and art. They will learn to clap the syllables in their names, create a personalized name song, and practice phonemic awareness by identifying rhymes and letter sounds. By the end of the unit, they will have a deeper understanding of how their names are unique and special, not just in meaning but in rhythm and sound. This foundational understanding of rhythm will set the stage for exploring more complex musical concepts in the following weeks.