

Using Music and Rhythm

in the everyday teaching

of English Language

in Malaysian Schools



A black and white photograph of a young child, possibly a toddler, sitting in a car seat. The child is holding the steering wheel with their right hand and a pacifier in their mouth. The child is looking out the window. The background is dark and out of focus.

1. What does the research tell us?

2. Problems

3. Practicalities

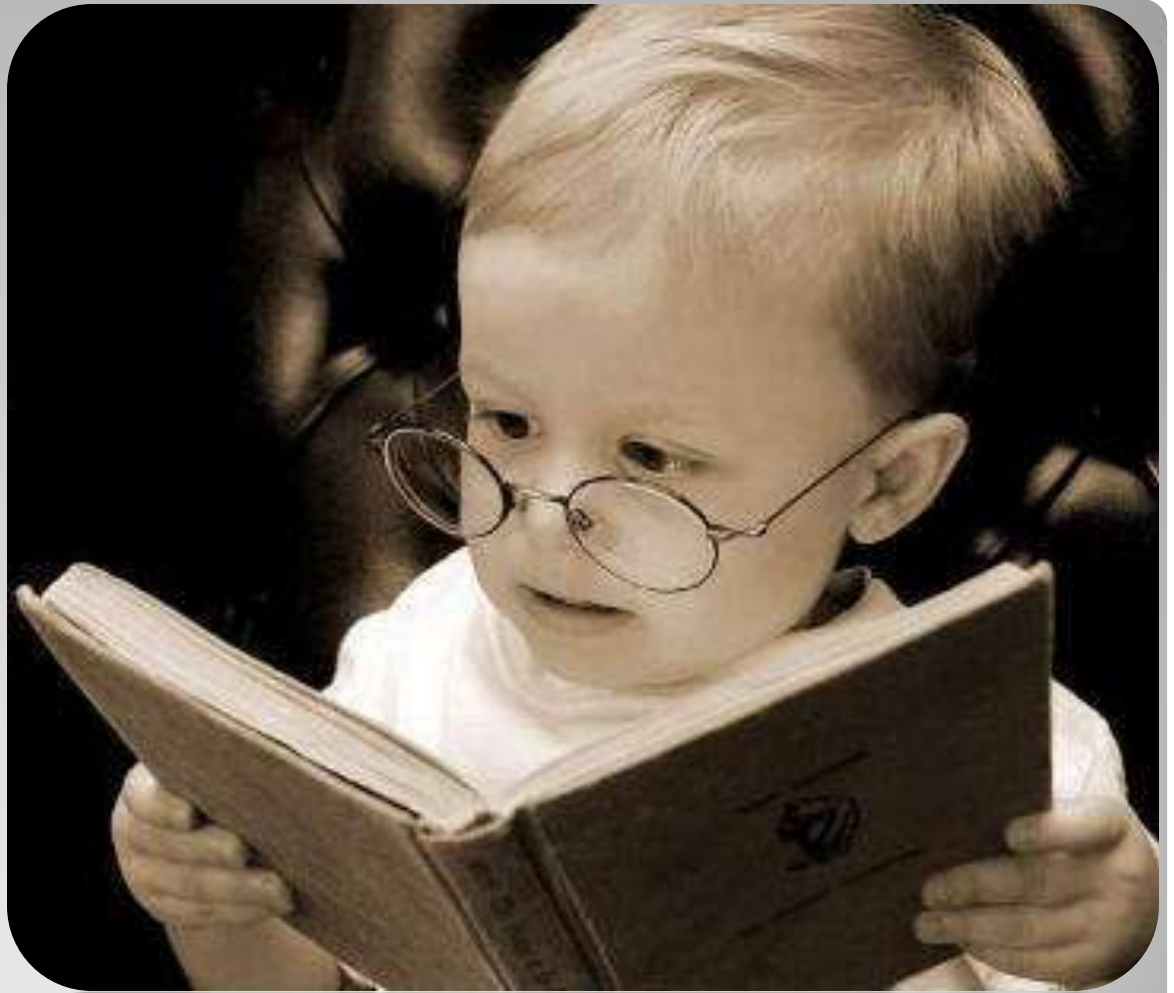
So, where are we going today?



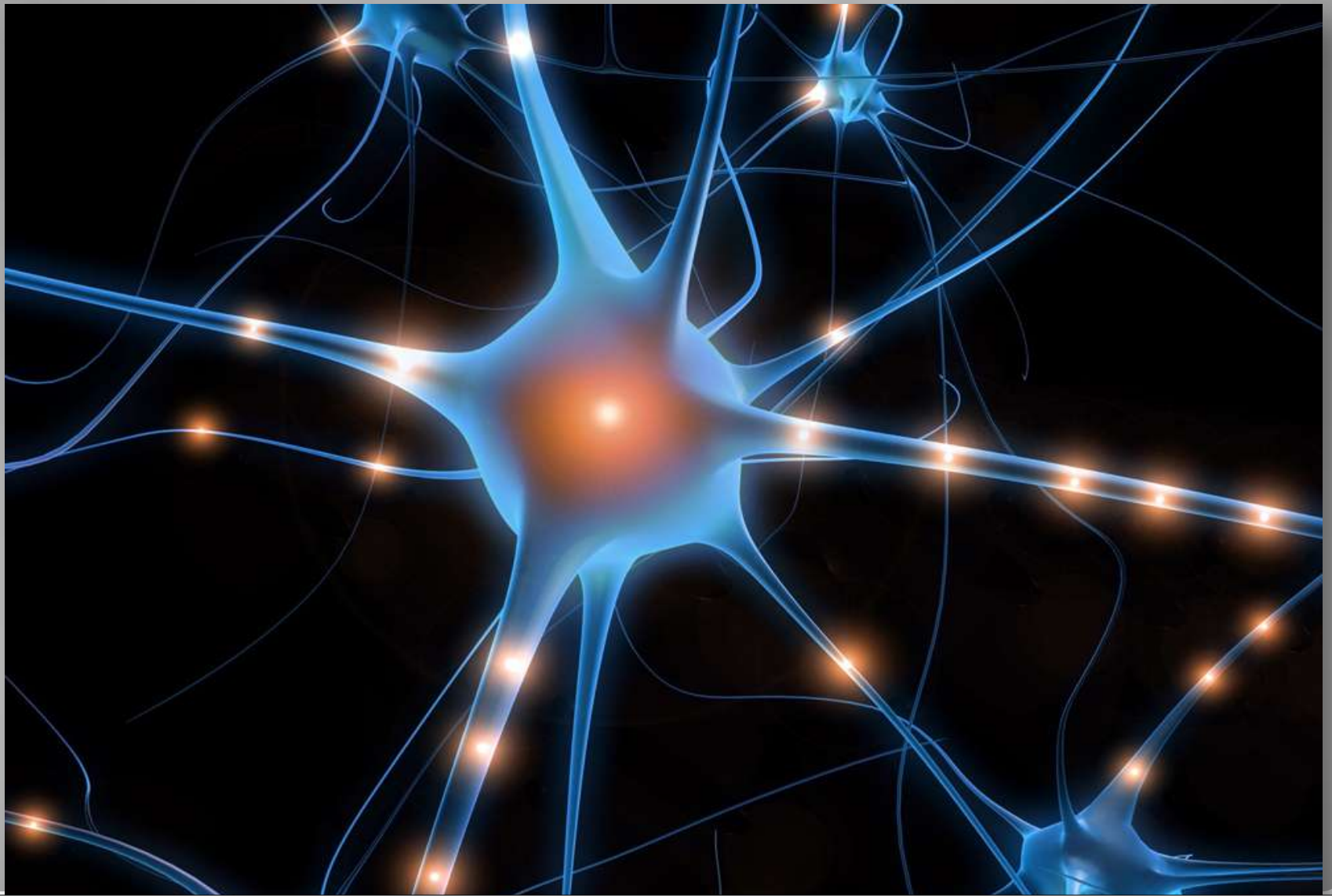
Introduction

The changing face of education

**Why
use
music
and
rhythm?**



What does the Research say?



1. Music Enhances Brain Function



Fun!

Children are:

captivated

motivated

fascinated

enlightened

2. Music Use Improves Motivation and Emotional Well-being



Music will leave its impression on students, and they will remember not only the words but the grammatical structures for the rest of their lives.

Blodget, T. (2000). *Teaching the Target Language through the Lyrics of Melodic Music*. Retrieved 5 8, 2011, from Songs for Teaching:
<http://www.songsforteaching.com/musicapaedia/teachingtargetlanguagethroughlyrics.htm>

3. Music Use Assists Memory



4. Music Use Develops Phonology and Natural Rhythm



**5. Music Use Improves Language
Listening Skills**



6. Music Use Assists With Literacy



7. Music Provides a Cultural Framework for Language Learning

`...In the language arts module, pupils are trained to show appreciation of and demonstrate understanding of texts read, sing songs, recite rhymes and poems as well as produce creative works for enjoyment. `

...'Able to sing action songs and recite jazz chants with correct pronunciation, rhythm and intonation...'



8. Music Use is in the Syllabus



Problems – Why Aren't Malaysian Teachers Using Music More?



1. Lack of music training



2. Teachers are not all confident singers



3. Lack of Audio Equipment and CDs



4. Not all songs are suitable



5. Complaints about noise.



Practicalities – Some Simple and Effective Strategies



1. Focused Listening Using Popular Songs

Nursery Rhymes

Ready-made chants

Making your own chants:



2. Using Chants and Rhymes

Traditional Songs



3. Using Simple Songs



4. Actions and Moving to Music



5. Use Musical Instruments



6. Using Stories with Songs



7. Using Songs to Teach Grammar



8. Overcoming the Noise Problem

You CAN teach an old dog new tricks!



9. Be a Lifelong Learner

Conclusion:

It's well worth the effort that may be required to overcome obstacles and delight our students with as much music as we can manage.

