

Beginner

Rhythms

for the Kodály

Inspired Classroom



Doremi Teach

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Beginner Rhythms



As your students progress along their musical journey and discover more complex rhythms you can include them gradually into your rhythm activities.

However when your students are just getting started there's no need to be too creative. It's far more effective to use the same small set of rhythms and really get them embedded into their unconscious minds.

This has the benefit, not only of focusing on the more important rhythms, but also increasing their likelihood to succeed. Finish each activity feeling successful should be our top priority.

So we're going to start with simple crotchet and quaver patterns, quarter and eighth notes if you prefer.

Rhythm Names



In Kodály-inspired music lessons we use rhythm names to teach and perform rhythms.

The Kodály rhythm names are derived from the French Galin–Paris–Chevé system.

- Crotchets (quarter notes) are ***ta***
- Pairs of quavers (eighth notes) are ***titi*** or ***tete***

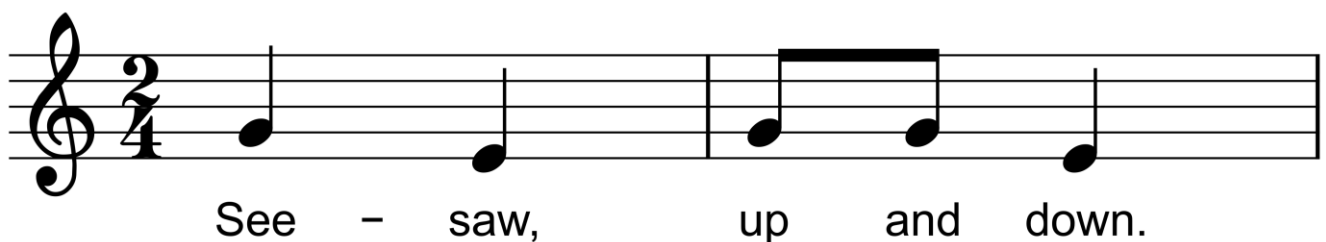
The advantages of these names are many.

- One syllable per sound
- Simpler than drink or animal based names, especially as the level increases to complex and syncopated rhythms
- No risk of incorrect emphasis

ta ta titi ta



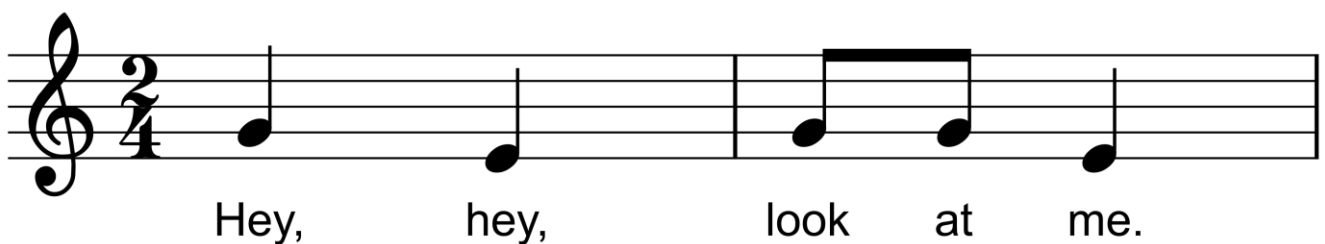
What a classic! It's found in the opening line of so many of the first songs we teach our students in Kodály-inspired lessons. Including See Saw, Cuckoo, Hey Hey, Bye-lo Baby-O. That makes it my number one priority. My students **must** have this rhythm embedded into their aural memory.



titi titi titi ta



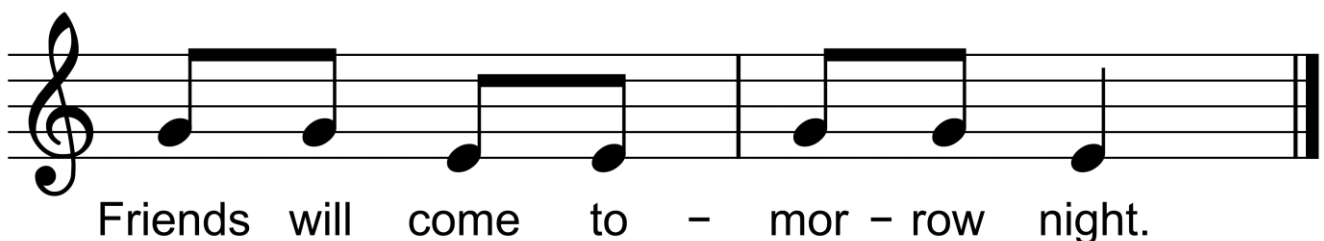
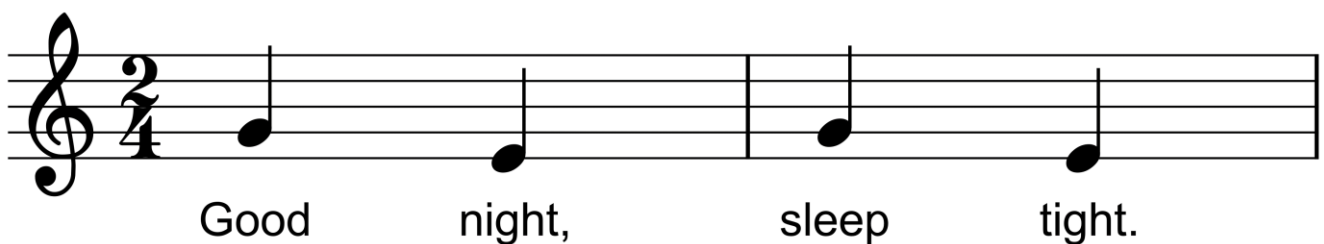
My second priority. Not only is it the second line for some of the songs already mentioned, See Saw, Hey Hey, Bye-lo Baby-O. It's also the only rhythm in *Cobbler Cobbler* and I think it's probably the most common rhythm in the entire of [Doremi Piano Sing and Play](#) (*goes to check!*)



ta ta ta ta



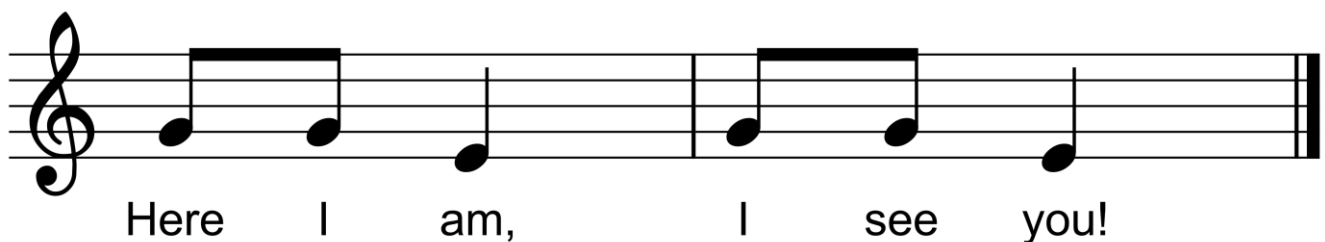
Another frequent flyer that gives us a nice contrast with the others since it's purely crotchets (or quarter notes). It is easy to rush when sight reading so get lots off aural practice in first. Found in the songs Good Night, Bounce High, Starlight Star Bright and Snail Snail.



titi ta titi ta



Now onto the slightly harder ones. I will only use these if I'm sure my students have really internalised the first three and we want to add a little more variety or challenge. This one is hidden away in Cuckoo and crops up again in Starlight Star Bright and Mary Ann.



ta titi titi ta



The hardest of my opening set. These final two are only a beat away from *titi titi titi ta* yet are really useful to check if your students are really listening. As before, only introduce them when the first three are secure. This is found in No Robbers Out Today and Starlight Star Bright.



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