



Simple songs that kids can simply sing

Welcome to Animation Station 1

Thank you to the participants of Animation Station 1

The founders of Kids' Express Train, Rachel Arntson and Chez Raginiak, would like to thank...

- Cathy Lucas, Special Education Teacher
- The many parents who contributed photos and permitted us to photograph and include their adorable children in this project
- The many wonderful children who participated in photo shoots and were true professionals

What is Animation Station 1?

Animation Station 1 is Kids' Express Train's first audio-visual show depicting 12 songs from KET SETS 1 and 2. We have always believed that developing visuals to accompany our audio recordings increases learning. But NOW, we have made it even easier for you! Copy the contents of this disc onto your computer. Play the audio-visual shows and watch as your child enjoys and learns from the photographs, printed words, and songs from KET SETS 1 and 2. You can also view these on your iPad or through a SMART Board. Please read below for further instructions.

What will these shows teach children?

We have chosen 12 songs from KET SETS 1 and 2 for our debut Animation Station 1. The illustrations used in Animation Station 1 contain actual photographs of children and objects focused on the lyrics of the songs. Combined, they achieve a variety of goals. The goals of these animations/videos include learning common vocabulary words, sentence construction, phonemic awareness of beginning letter sounds, concepts of same and different, and multi-syllabic word production. In addition to the 12 presentations, you will find suggested activities printed below to do with each song. We have also added a file of the lyrics for all 12 songs for your reference.

Audio-Visuals on Animation Station 1

1. Baby Blowing Bubbles
2. Milk and Juice
3. Let's Eat
4. Put Them On
5. Cheese and Macaroni
6. Slide
7. Bananas
8. Brush

9. Go
10. I Love
11. Alphabeat
12. What's That?

Who would benefit from watching Animation Station 1?

This animated presentation of our songs can be used for all children whether they are developing speech and language normally or showing delays in learning to talk. We have also found that using Animation Station 1 is excellent for children who are learning English as a second language - English Language Learners (ELL). Please read the paragraph below regarding these animations as tools for English Language Learners.

The Theory of using Music to Teach English Language Learners (Schunk, 1999; Murphey, 1990, 1992)

Kids' Express Train's Animation Station 1 acts as a language acquisition device for English Language Learners. The number of children who are limited English proficient (LEP) attending U.S. public schools is rising. As educators, we need to provide tools that can accelerate the learning of core vocabulary and sentence construction. Music is a valuable tool that achieves those goals for ELL children. Songs can reinforce language acquisition through an involuntary mental rehearsal. The "song-stuck-in-my head" (SSIMH) phenomenon has positive practical and emotional effects on ELL students, building greater confidence to produce speech. Sounds, words, phrases, and sentences of the second language may suddenly pop out and insistently ring in the student's head through the use of music. The SSIMH phenomenon, along with corresponding visuals, can greatly condense what may have taken several hours of standard language drill and practice for second language learning.

KET's Animation Station 1 videos combine attractive photography and music to reinforce vocabulary, sentence patterns, articulation, rhythm, fluency, and intonation. Music provides cues to improve the rhythm of speech, and photos paired with the song add meaning. When projected on a screen or SMART Board, the visuals become the "stage or background," while children actively perform by singing along or doing actions. By adding signs, gestures, or movement, Kids' Express Train's Animation Station 1 creates an enjoyable way to learn language.

What is included in Animation Station 1?

This DISC includes the following folders and files:

1. A_VIDEO_REQUEST_SHEET, a PDF file ready to be printed.
2. ANIMATIONS_MOV_FILES_for_MAC_best_quality with 12 animations as .mov files. These files will play on any Mac or computer with a Quick Time Player installed and/or

updated. If they don't work on your Mac/Computer, follow the directions from the manual on how to install/update your Quick Time Player.

3. ANIMATIONS_MP4_FILES_for_ANY_SYSTEM with 12 animations as .mp4 files. You may not need these files at all, but just in case your system doesn't play the .mov or .wmv files, you may try these. These files can also be downloaded into your iPad by way of iTunes.

4. ANIMATIONS_WMV_FILES_for_WINDOWS with 12 animations as .wmv files. These files will play on any PC or any computer with a Windows Media Player installed and/or updated. If they don't work on your PC, follow the directions from this manual on how to install/update your Windows Media Player.

5. LYRICS, a PDF file with lyrics ready to be printed.

6. This MANUAL, a PDF file that contains suggested activities to do with each song.

How do I load these shows, and what type of computer can I use?

Please read the READ_THIS_FILE_FIRST.txt file where we cover some basics on how to use this disc and files.

WARNING! We cannot guarantee that these files will play on PCs that run on the VISTA operating system. Please upgrade your system to WINDOWS 7 or XP.

To play our animations using your PC computer, you have these 3 choices:

1. Upgrade your Windows Media Player by following these directions:

Open the Windows Media Player.

Go to HELP.

Select "check for updates," follow instructions, and upgrade your Windows Media Player. **Just in case, reboot your computer.**

2. If you need to, install a Quick Time Player from here:

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

3. If needed, download iTunes from here:

<http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>

Animation Station 1 will work on a PC or Mac computer.

However, if you are a Windows user, make sure your system matches these minimum requirements:

A PC running Windows XP (Service Pack 3) or Windows 7

2.4GHz Pentium-class processor or better

At least 1.20 GB of RAM

You also need about 3GB of space on your computer to copy all the files from the disc before playing them.

For your convenience, on this disc we have included 3 types of files to insure that these animations play for you. If they don't, scroll down to the end of this document to find directions on how to install/upgrade your player.

No matter what system/computer you are using, copy the contents of the disc to your computer. Just open the disc, select all files, and copy them to your C drive. Remember where you stored them for future use.

WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ANY OF THE FILES WILL CORRECTLY PLAY DIRECTLY FROM THE DISC!

After the files are copied to your computer...

If you are a MAC user, open the animations located in the following folder:

ANIMATIONS_MOV_FILES_for_MAC_best_quality

If you are a PC user, open the animations located in this folder:

ANIMATIONS_WMV_FILES_for_WINDOWS

Once you have completed a download/upgrade of Windows Media Player, Quick Time Player, or iTunes, follow these instructions:

Go to the location of the saved files and play the animations from your computer by double-clicking each file or by selecting one file and pressing PLAY. **This is NOT a music CD or DVD, so the animations will not start playing automatically.**

As you watch the animation, you may want to press the "full screen icon" under "View" in the tool bar or on the lower right side of the screen. This allows the animation to fill the complete computer screen.

Can Animation Station 1 songs be viewed on an iPad?

Yes, you can load the 12 MP4 files of Animation Station 1 to your iPad by first importing them to your iTunes library. These animations will be located in your Movie library on iTunes. Sync your iPad to your computer, and the files will transfer to your iPad into your Videos folder.

Can Animation Station 1 songs be viewed on a SMART Board?

Yes, *Animation Station 1* files can be viewed on a SMART Board by attaching it to your computer with a VGA display cable. Follow instructions as directed in your SMART Board manual.

General Suggestions for Using Animation Station 1

You have many options for enhancing the learning potential of *Animation Station 1* songs... (continues in the manual that comes with this product)