

Melodic Learning FAQ

1. What is Melodic Learning?

“Melodic Learning” is the name given to a broad range of teaching strategies in which music and singing are used to facilitate the gain of knowledge. The term “Melodic Learning” was first used in several academic papers (white papers) that were published in 2011. A frequently cited example of “Melodic Learning” is the use of the “A-B-C Song” for children to learn the letters of the alphabet.

2. Who developed the term “Melodic Learning”?

Dr. Susan Homan, professor emerita, at the College of Education at the University of South Florida, first used the term to describe her research during which struggling readers used a singing game- like intervention to improve their comprehension levels.

3. How was Melodic Learning used to help struggling readers?

Students sang “grade leveled” songs on a computer for a set number of repetitions. The students’ comprehension levels were assessed before and after the intervention period.

4. How large were the gains?

Struggling readers made 1 full year’s growth in Reading Comprehension level after using the Melodic Learning approach for 3 months. Further research documented that the comprehension gains were sustained even after the intervention was discontinued.

5. What age group did this approach work best for?

The researchers worked with struggling readers in grades 1 – 10 but found that grades 1 – 5 were best suited to using the singing approach.

6. What Reading Intervention programs incorporate the Melodic Learning Approach?

Sing, Spell, Read and Write by Sue Dickson (published by Pearson Learning)
<https://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PSZu68&PMDbProgramId=1156>

Flocabulary (www.flocabulary.com)

Lyrics 2 Learn (www.lyrics2learn.com)

The most thoroughly researched is TUNE into READING by Electronic Learning Products

7. Can I get the same results just by having my students use a karaoke machine?

The best results will be obtained by using a program that allows for 100% differentiated instruction. Look for a program that allows students to work independently and at their own pace. Research shows that students who use the singing approach 3 times per week for a minimum of 30 minutes per session, will improve one full grade level after about 3 months.