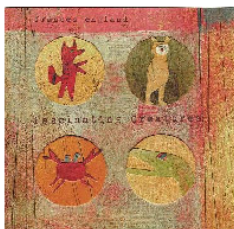




Thursday

27
July

The Rhythm is Going to Get You



Every once in a while, I come upon some new children's music that makes me want to grab other parents on the street, plop my headphones over their head and scream, "You've got to hear this!" Frances England is one of these artists.

A kids' music artist who lists Liz Phair among her influences--let's just say it's hard to go wrong here. England's debut album, *Fascinating Creatures*, is a collection of songs that are lyrically and musically

appropriate for kids, but with enough of an edge that they could pass for grown-up music. Her lyrics throughout the album are smart and original. Rather than going for obvious rhymes, she writes in a conversational rhythm and creates beautiful images for the listener.

Check out a few [sample tracks](#), then be sure to get your copy of *Fascinating Creatures*. Because in a year or two, when Frances England is a Very Big Deal in the world of children's music--which I guarantee she will be--you'll be able to say, "Oh, Frances? Yeah, we've been listening to her foreeeeeever." -Amy

WIN IT! A free autographed copy of the CD from *Frances*, signed with a personal message to your child! Email liz@coolmompicks.com by 10pm EST and we'll pick a winner at random.

[Permalink](#)

Thursday

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July

Find Your Inner Silly

If I have to hear *Fruit Salad*, *Yummy Yummy* one more time, I just might check myself into the mommy loony bin. Thank goodness for musician Jim Gill and his newest release, *Moving Rhymes for Modern Times*.



This isn't your everyday kiddie album. Originally a music therapist for children with special needs, Jim composes his high-energy, jazzy songs to get kids up and moving--and as importantly, to encourage parents to join in. I know the thought of dancing toddler-style might be embarrassing, but trust me, you can't resist when *Rhythm in My Fingers* starts streaming out of the speakers.

At a recent concert in Columbus, I got to witness it all first-hand: Parents were dancing! And jumping! And acting silly! (And I was, too...shhhhhh.) I asked Jim for his number one piece of advice for moms and he said, "Play with your kids. They're only this young once, and it's a great excuse for you to act silly with them."

Good advice from a good guy. And definitely a [good album](#) for your collection. -Christina

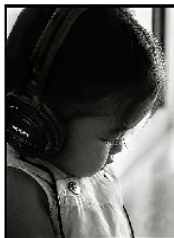
WIN IT! We're giving away a copy of *Moving Rhymes*, autographed with a personal message to your child from Jim. Just email liz@coolmompicks.com by 10pm EST Friday with **JIM GILL** in the header.

[Permalink](#)

Wednesday

19
July

The Next Best Thing to Springsteen Pulling Her Up on Stage



While I know from experience that kids love hearing their own names in songs--even my own frighteningly off-tune renditions--I've got to admit I'm wary of those "personalized" CDs. The few I've heard have been absolutely, heinously, eardrum shattering. Then I discovered [Name Your Tune](#), and suddenly I'm changing my tune.

Here, ten classic children's songs each incorporate your child's name into the lyrics. Well-loved tunes are interpreted in unexpectedly fun ways, like *Head and Shoulders* which is arranged like a folk song Nana brought back from the old country. And the vocals? Easy on the ears, I swear. and see for yourself.

Besides, it's very cool that a chunk of change from each sale is donated to [Hear Here](#), a non-profit that provides hearing aids to children.

More than 1500 [names](#) are available from [Name Your Tune](#) with more being added regularly. So unless you're one of those urban legend people who named your kid Oranjello, you're probably in luck. -Julie

For \$5 off each CD you order, just enter code **NNHOL2005** at checkout.

[photo via [leilanimarie](#)]

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