

NY CARIB NEWS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT HEADLINES

Topic - Shake, Rattle & Roll Parents As Primary Teachers Promote Arts Education For Youths
(original article appears on <http://nycaribnews.com/youthdevelopment.htm>)

BROOKLYN, NY - Around one o'clock in the afternoon, Yoidette Erima bundles up her two toddler boys in the foyer of their four-story brownstone in Bedford-Stuyvesant. All the while, she sings songs with them. Some songs are familiar ditties about an aged farmer and his overpopulated farm and a wistful rafting expedition down a placid waterway. Other songs seem homespun: about cleaning up after lunch, proper procedure for getting dressed, and the weather outside.



They're on the way to the library to beat drums and learn about numbers, colors and the alphabet in a program that she developed, called Shake, Rattle & Roll. Yoidette is the executive director of Parents As Primary Teachers, a non-profit group that promotes strong curriculum ideas for parents who want to take a more active role in educating their children.

The Columbia University graduate is an eleven-year veteran educator whose background includes teaching curriculum building principles to teachers from Clinton Hill to Ghana, West Africa.

The value of arts education has been widely documented. Studies have shown that arts education develops better math and science students.

Additionally, many of the study, communication, and cognitive skills and disciplines learned in music education assist students in academic pursuits. Music education offers young people opportunities for self-expression, creativity, and teamwork. As music has been called the "universal language," music education fosters the development of literacy and higher order thinking skills. Furthermore, "children learn best," Yoidette reasons, "when you target their interest, help them explore it through actual experience and connect related concepts to their experiences."

And she's not the only one who thinks so. Assemblywoman Annette Robinson has put forth her support for the program as well as the Brooklyn Public Library and the Independence Community Foundation. The Bedford Branch of the library, located at 496 Franklin Avenue near Fulton Street, is hosting the official Shake, Rattle & Roll kick-off event on Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. February 28 and the weekly free sessions every Thursday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. from March 8 to May 24.

Every week, percussionist Shawn Banks, exposes children of all ages and their caregivers to percussion instruments from all over the world; teaching them about the development and technical manipulation of the instruments as they have fun making music and instruments with other children.

Homeschooling families will also love the thematic curriculum guides provided by Parents As Primary Teachers, Inc. that will help them extend the learning to other subject areas. Contact parentsasprimaryteachers@gmail.com to reserve your space.