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Children paint with their minds

KIDZONE

By Sue Ontiveros

I recently read a story about how more parents are putting televisions in their children's rooms at earlier ages.

Bad move. Do parents really want to promote too much TV or video watching? I think a TV in a child's room could come back to haunt you. Consider this: When your child is a pre-teen or teen, the only time you may be able to get him or her to sit with you, the uncool parent, may be in front of the TV.

If you just can't resist putting electronics into your child's room, then try a CD and/or cassette player. There are all sorts of interesting recordings out there that will spark your child's imagination.

Audio magazines for kids are pretty hot right now. One aimed at children ages 3 through 7 is Shoofly. The quart[illegible]which has received a Parei[illegible] offers a great [illegible] songs and kid-[illegible] While Shoofly [illegible] stories, a big pl[illegible] inal stories fro[illegible] authors. This g[illegible] ries—with stro[illegible] tivating charac[illegible]

We listened [illegible] Vol. 4, No. 2. V[illegible] zines, sound—t[illegible] more—pretty much fills the role that photos do in visual magazines.

Juanita Newland-Ulloa & Picante Ensemble perform on "Canta Conmigo 2."

Shoofly has a nice mix of humorous tales ("Helga, the Green Gargoyle") and more serious stories with a message, such as "Nakhio's Choice" and "Glass Horses."

Added to all this is the great music. Vol. 2 featured the Atlanta-based Bugaboos, whose fun, offbeat tunes kids are sure to enjoy.

Subscriptions to Shoofly are $29.95 (plus $3.95 shipping and handling) for four issues. Single issues are $9.95. To order, call (800) 919-9989.

Speaking of audio magazines, we listened to another volume (Vol. 5, Issue 9) of Boomerang!, which is aimed at school-age kids. This, too, is a sophisticated production, full of great stories, music and sounds. Most of the reporters on this newsmagazine are children. It offers everything from kid-size jokes to more serious numbers.

The introductory rate for Boomerang! is $43.95 for 12 tapes. To subscribe, call (650) 747-0978.

Musical storyteller Ann Rachlin [illegible] reputation in [illegible]here she combines [illegible]nd original stories [illegible] books and in her [illegible] classes in Lon-[illegible]ts have included [illegible]nd Prince Harry. [illegible]work is now avail-[illegible] through d'Note [illegible]five discs in Ann [illegible]al Music and

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Storytime series. We listened to stories featured on "An Americat in Paris," "The King Who Broke His Promise" and "Sinbad and the Wizard Eagle."

Rachlin has an engaging voice. From her first words, she draws her audience into the stories. Her stories are full of vivid descriptions that give you a complete picture of the action and emotions involved.

Each of the stories is set to grand symphonic music performed by major orchestras—the English Chamber Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, Philharmonica Orchestra and Bournemouth Symphony. The works—from composers as varied as Beethoven, Vivaldi and Gershwin—complement the stories so well. This is a great way to introduce your children to classical music.

Each CD retails for $16.99. The series is available at Tower Records on Clark or by calling (800) 995-2657.

"Canta Conmigo 2: From Panama to Peru, and Mexico, Too" features Latin music with the child in mind. It is performed by educator Juanita Newland-Ulloa & Picante Ensemble. The recording features traditional folk songs sung primarily in Spanish, as well as bilingual numbers. (It can be ordered with a songbook in English.)

But Spanish speaking or not, any young child can figure out through the sounds that "Gatito" and "Wow-wow-wow" are about a cat and a dog, respectively.

This is a nice collection of Latin music that is sure to give any Spanish-speaking child a dose of cultural pride. Picante Ensemble, which performs in California, offers strong Latin rhythms.

"Canta Conmigo 2" is $9.98 for cassette or $14.98 for CD (plus $4.50 for shipping). To order, call (800) 541-9904.