

Reading Passage

(Beginning ABE, Reading Level 3.7)

MUSIC THERAPY

Machines beep and hum. Numbers and lights flash on screens. Nurses check charts and adjust medicines. This is a cancer treatment center for children. In the middle of the room, a man strums a guitar. The kids clap their hands. They sing along to songs they know well. The man is a music therapist. Music therapy helps patients feel better and heal faster. It combines medical treatments with songs and music lessons. For children, that can make the center seem less scary. The music lowers stress. It helps pass the time during treatments. The children don't spend time playing video games or watching TV. They explore their creative sides. They learn to express how they feel through music. Medicine is important for the body to heal. Music is a tool that speeds the healing process.