**Title:** Alphabet Under Construction

**Therapeutic Objective(s):** print awareness, book handling, letter knowledge, vocabulary

**Musical Objective(s):** maintain steady beat, sing arpeggio

**Materials:** book Alphabet Under Construction by Denise Fleming; rhythm sticks

**Procedure:**

1. Introduce the book Alphabet Under Construction, which is written and illustrated by Denise Fleming. Discuss the front cover illustration and some of the tools pictured. Explain that tools are used for a variety of activities, including building. In this book, the mouse will be building and decorating the letters of the alphabet.
2. Demonstrate the refrain for the children, patching the steady beat on your legs.

Refrain:

*Mouse, mouse, where can he be?*

*He’s building the alphabet from A to Z!*

1. Repeat, inviting the children to sing along with you if they would like.
2. Tell the children you will be repeating the refrain throughout the book and invite them to sing along with you when you do.
3. Pat a steady beat on your leg and start the book by singing the refrain with the children.
4. Point to self to indicate that you will sing the pages of the book. You will sing 5 letters at a time, except for the final verse, when you will sing 6.
5. After each set of letters, point to the children to indicate it is time to sing the refrain together.
6. Review any letters or vocabulary you wish to emphasize.

**Extensions:**

1. The second time you introduce the book, have the children sing the refrain *and* keep the beat on their legs with you. They may have naturally done this the first time through, but this time it can be more intentional to target maintaining a steady beat.
2. After successfully keeping the beat on their legs, give children rhythm sticks with which to keep the beat. Prior to reading the book, you may want to do a song about different ways to keep a beat with the sticks. A piggy back to the “Mulberry Bush” singing “This is the way we use the tools . . . when we are building” for example can show kids how to “hammer” or “saw” with the sticks.

**Adaptations:**

1. Start with just having the children keep the steady beat with you. This may be easier for some than singing the refrain, so instead wait until the second time the book is read to encourage the singing.
2. You may wish to repeat the refrain each time to allow more time for processing and participation.