

Video Sharing - Videos of children's songs on YouTube teaching the next generation

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In the south bay of the San Francisco Bay Area, a San Jose couple made short videos of preschool children's songs to share on YouTube and received a tremendous amount of feedback. These original videos avoid the unresolved copyright issues faced by YouTube.

The melody of the song "Old McDonald Had a Farm" is known by children all over the world and the song can be sung with different languages. Other songs, such as the "flashing traffic lights", are hard to understand if the children did not grow up in the U.S.

Using the melody of "Little Star" and the lyric of "Stop on red, go on green, and slow on yellow", Mrs. Cullen Wood, who lives in San Jose, sang the song "flashing traffic lights" with hand gestures to show the ideas of "Stop, go, and slow." Starting last November, with the help from her husband Steve Wood, she started making her own videos. The videos included performing "Five monkeys jumping on the bed" in the their bedroom, singing "Mr. Sun" in the living room, and doing science projects in the backyard. In addition to posting on YouTube, the couple has their own web site called www.cullensabc.com. Currently, they posted 170 educational videos, which have been viewed 80,000 times. In march, theirs were on the Featured Videos of YouTube's front page.

Having 12 years experience of teaching preschoolers, Cullen Wood effortlessly blended the American culture into children's songs. She mentioned the benefits to sing with children, such as improving the spelling and pronunciation of words and developing hand-brain coordination. "The most important thing is to have fun and let children to sing," said Cullen Wood. She would start with "Hey, how are you!" and end with "Good job!" Many parents found out that their preschoolers started to sing along with her after showing the kids the videos. "Both new parents and grandparents can find ideas from the videos." One guest commented. In addition to preschoolers, Cullen Wood's audiences include parents. She taught parents how to relax and sing to their children. She also published an article - "How to choose a good day care."

Even though educational video sharing is still in its infancy, the method is part of the global concept of "it takes a village to raise a child." A guest named Mel commented that he thinks Cullen Wood's vision of combining education and fun with kids is the way of the future.

An well known example of using videos for preschool education is the Baby Einstein Company. Founder Julie Aigner-Clark was a teacher. After becoming a parent, Clark found that there were not many suitable products on the market she could use to share her passion of literature, art, and music with her daughter. With the assistance of her husband, Clark started to turn her ideas into high-quality educational videos since 1996. In 2001, The Walt Disney Company bought the Baby Einstein. Compared with the Baby Einstein, the Woods' video production is relatively simple, focusing on the "hands-on approach." Whether the Woods will be successful is difficult to predict. Nevertheless, "My passion and experience can be shared with more preschoolers through this channel." Cullen Wood said on her web site.

The original videos have no copyright issues, of which YouTube's parent company Google is looking for legal ways to resolve. On June 13th, the San Jose Mercury News reported that Google has confirmed that YouTube will filter out the un-authorized videos. Starting next month, Disney and Time Warner will join an experimental program with YouTube and provide some legal video contents.