

# Kids Go Bananas For Monkey Monkey Music

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Young kids danced and sang along to the Monkey Monkey Music Family Show at the Hicksville Public Library last week during an interactive, educational music experience.

Monkey Monkey Music is made up of singer Meredith LeVande who performs songs for her audience, which is usually made up of children ages six and younger and their caregivers. LeVande played 12 songs with her band and had the children jumping and dancing along the entire time.



"At this age, they're so full of energy and movement. I write songs that really compliment that part of their lives," said LeVande. "I don't think kids want to sit down in their seats. Most of the songs I perform live are meant to get them up and moving."

LeVande writes and performs songs that are interactive, supporting children's natural curiosity and desire to learn. LeVande is a huge supporter of early childhood education and strives to have her music engage the whole child.

"I think that the average person isn't necessarily aware of how fundamental the first five years of a human being's life is," explained LeVande. "Children who have solid early childhood foundations in school have been found to be better prepared for all academics in the future."

Local parent Jeannine Miele likes to take her two sons, Christopher, age four, and Alexander, age two,

to events like the Monkey Monkey Music Family Show in order to expose them to music. Though her sons are usually shy, they were jumping around and dancing to the songs.

"I like these kind of things because it gets them interacting with other kids," said Miele.

At one point a bubble machine was on stage and all of the children in the room were jumping up and down to catch the bubbles.

Monkey Monkey Music mostly performs in libraries within the New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut area. They also have videos that air on PBS stations, Kids 13 and NJTV.

"I love being a part of public television, because public television was actually meant to be an extension of early childhood initiatives and give access to all children," said LeVande. "I'm really grateful to be a part of that space and contribute in that way."

