The history of racist nursery rhymes and Cultural Imposition in the United States and beyond.

The role nursery rhymes played in the maintenance of slavery and segregation in the U.S.

The current state of children’s music in the black community.

What you can do to help combat Music Adultification.
Two Paths of Development
For Humanity

One that advances
the few

One that advances
the masses
The process of making another human being a slave and the actual property of someone else who could be bought, sold, traded or inherited.

Chattel-Slavery was the precursor to Capitalism.

The means of production in society is used to advance one or a small group of people at the expense of another group of people.
THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

- Slave Revolts
- Negro Spirituals
- Quilts of the Underground Railroad
EENIE, MEENIE, MINY, MOE

Originally a song about catching slaves

Used the phrase “Catch a Nigger by it’s toe”

Over 8 million views since 2015 on Super Simple Songs - Kids Songs
**Do Your Ears Hang Low?**  
**The Ice Cream Song**

- Released in March 1916 by Columbia Records
- Written by actor Harry C. Browne and played on the familiar depiction of black people as mindless beasts of burden greedily devouring slices of watermelon.
- The origin of the song is most likely George Washington Dixon's "Zip Coon", a racist ditty penned in 1838 and later adapted to the less offensive "Turkey in the Straw".
THE ICE CREAM SONG
LYRICS

“Nigger love a watermelon ha ha, ha ha!

Nigger love a watermelon ha ha, ha ha!

For here, they're made with a half a pound of co'l

There's nothing like a watermelon for a hungry coon”
It was adapted in 1869 by Frank J. Green as *Ten Little Niggers* and became a standard of the blackface minstrel shows in England and America. (Source)
Five Little Monkeys derives from the song, Shortnin’ Bread
Created by the Parker Brothers, who also created the board game, Monopoly, the #3 selling board game in the world.
Ten Little Niggers Original Lyrics

One little, two little, three little Indians
Four little, five little, six little Indians
Seven little, eight little, nine little Indians
Ten little Indian boys.

Ten little, nine little, eight little Indians
Seven little, six little, five little Indians
Four little, three little, two little Indians
One little Indian boy.
TEN LITTLE NIGGERS’ MINSTREL SHOW LYRICS

“Ten little Indians standin' in a line,
One toddled home and then there were nine;

Nine little Indians swingin' on a gate,
One tumbled off and then there were eight.

Eight little Indians gayest under heav'n.
One went to sleep and then there were seven;

Seven little Indians cuttin' up their tricks,
One broke his neck and then there were six.

Six little Indians all alive,
One kicked the bucket and then there were five…¹”

AGATHA CHRISTY’S NOVEL

- *Ten Little Niggers*, later re-title *And Then There Were None*, and also titled *Ten Little Indians*, is considered author Agatha Christie’s best and most ambitious work.

- Based on an infamous blackface minstrel song.

- Due to the 1939 overtly racist original title, the book was re-titled *And Then There Were None* in 1940, and it was also published as (also overtly racist) *Ten Little Indians* in 1964.

- *And Then There Were None* has sold over 100 million copies worldwide.

Click [Here](#) for source.
Written in 1868 by songwriter Septimus Winner

It was also called "Ten Little Injuns" for a minstrel show.
Walt Disney Film that includes the Ten Little Indians at the 4:40 mark. (source)
“Chinese, Japanese, Dirty Knees, Look at These”

This would often be recited by children as their fingers were used to pull up at the sides of the eyes so as to make them slanted. (source)
Was changed to Pick a Bowl of Cherries by Normal Jones, the Rhythm Child in 2014.
There is an old work song that sings about picking cotton and it has the catchiest hook ever. I have no reason to sing about working in the fields as a slave, so one day in a random moment of silliness on stage I sang about cherries.”
First performed in the 1840s by blackface minstrel groups, which tells the story of a young slave named Jimmy who’s master dies.
A minstrel song written by Stephen Foster. The song is another attempt at ridiculing Black people and portraying them as mentally inferior.

(Source: Click Here)
This 1941 cartoon shows Buggs Bunny, Elmer Fudd and cast in black face singing, *I Wish I Was In Dixie*, the nickname for the Southern states in America who supported slavery. (Click picture to see video).
Although this is not a nursery rhyme, it does show how cartoons were also used to reinforce racial stereotypes of people of African descent. (Click picture to see video)
LITTLE BLACK SAMBO

- Published in 1899, the book was written about Black South Indians from India and is still popular to this day.

- The story takes place in a jungle.

- At the end, Sambo gives his clothes to a tiger and then goes home to eat 169 pancakes, while his mother ate 27 and his father ate 55.
AUNT JEMIMA

No Artificial Coloring or Preservatives

since 1889

Aunt Jemima

1910  1940s  1980s
NANCY GREEN — THE FIRST AUNT JEMIMA

- Aunt Jemima was first introduced as a character in a minstrel show.
- Nancy Green was born a slave in Kentucky in 1834 but gained her freedom in 1865.
- She debuted as Aunt Jemima at the 1893 World’s Exposition in Chicago at the age of 56.
- Signed a lifetime contract in 1893.
- She was so successful that by 1910, more than 120 million Aunt Jemima breakfasts were being served annually.
STATE OF CHILDREN’S MUSIC TODAY

- Children of African descent are being musically neglected and ignored.
- There is no national radio children's music programming targeting in the black community.
- None of the Black owned media outlets has children’s programming.
STATE OF CHILDREN’S MUSIC TODAY

- Today's children's music genre caters to the dominant culture, which predominantly plays folk and pop music.
- Forces outside of the targeted group are controlling the music our children hear, especially in the children’s music genre.
MUSIC ADULTIFICATION

- The process of forcing children to listen to inappropriate, adult music while denying them age-appropriate music that allows them to be who they are - innocent children.
EXAMPLES OF MUSIC ADULTIFICATION

- Children events whereby the music played is adult centered that contains sex, violence and profanity.
- Forcing children to listen to adult musical content while driving in the car.
- When more than 50% of the music a child listen’s to is adult content.
- Converting inappropriate adult music into lullabies.
LULLABY RENDITIONS OF SNOOP DOGG

• This is an example of Music Adultification

• Titles of his songs include
  ➢ Gin and Juice
  ➢ Drop It Like It's Hot
  ➢ Sensual Seduction
  ➢ Doggy Dogg World
WHAT YOU CAN DO?

- Support and utilize The Uncle Devin Show at your school, library or community
- Purchase our music, books and programming specifically catered to children
- Join my mailing list
- Listen to *I Am WEE Nation Radio*
- Listen to *Uncle Devin’s Radio One Talk Show* on Monday’s at noon EST.
- Speak out against Music Adultification when you see or hear it.
SOLUTIONS

The Uncle Devin Show® LLC – An interactive, musical experience that use percussion instruments to cultivate their minds – a dynamic cross between DC’s Trouble Funk and Schoolhouse Rock.

www.TheUncleDevinShow.com
What We Provide:

- Assemblies
- School Residencies
- Music Workshops
- Book Readings
- Percussion Playground
- Professional Development
- Radio Programming
OuR PRODUCTS

CD

Children's Book

CD
The first 24/7 online family-friendly music radio station that brings global beats for little feat.

- Age and culturally appropriate music for children.

- Different genres beyond the mainstream.
NONE OF THE BLACK AWARD SHOWS HAS CHILDREN’S MUSIC CATEGORY

* The Grammy’s and Latin Grammy’s honors Best Children’s Album!
Talk show that educates parents, teachers and guardians on the role music plays in a child’s development.

Airs every Monday from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST

Uncle Devin Podcast available on all podcast platforms and our website.
CONTACT INFORMATION

Name – Devin Walker (Uncle Devin Show LLC)
Email - drum@TheUncleDevinShow.com
Website – https://theuncledevinshow.com
Facebook - @UncleDevinShow and @IAmWEENation
Twitter - @UncleDevin and @IAmWEENation
Instagram - @UncleDevinShow
LinkedIn - @UncleDevinShow
Telephone – 202-695-2980.