

Say bye-bye to Illegal music downloads?

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By Syd Johnson

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Both Napster and Microsoft Music Service are working on new way to get customers to download music file to their iPod and otherportable mp3 players for less than \$1 per song. Actually, significantly less. Both of these music service are working on a way allow customers to downloads as much music as they want as long as it goes directly to an iPod or similar portable music player.

This is great news for customers who still think \$1 per song is too steep. Although the price model words for one song, 10 songs or even 100 songs, it starts getting outrageous when you go by factors of ten. If an iPod holds 10,000 songs and you want to fill it up, you would have to spend \$10,000. Most people can fill up the iPod in less than a year.

Unfortunately, they probably won't spend \$10,000 on music, in any single year. So, what you could have is a legal product, the iPod, being used to hold thousands of illegal songs because the space is there. (assuming the iPod would be open later on to all mp3 formats.)

Napster has a workaround

Napster is the first to announce that it is working on a subscription model that would allow it's user to pay a cheap subscription fee with no restrictions on how many songs they can download. By their estimates, a user can probably download 10,000 songs for about \$180. Unfortunately, the Napster system does not work with the iPod so customers can only take advantage of this offer if they purchase either of two Napster approved portable mp3 players.

The Microsoft model would also allow customers to download a significant number of files for less than the average cost of \$1 per song. Microsoft is another company that is also locked out of the iPod. They will distribute the songs via Microsoft approved portable mp3 players.

This new pricing model is radical change for the digital music industry. This came about because the success of iTunes has highlighted all that is good and bad about the ways music is sold online.

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It shows that customers will buy online and they will browse through digital catalogs for individual songs rather than entire albums. But, it also shows that a lot of work needs to be done to make the mp3 security codes and portable players more compatible. If Apple continues to dominate the portable mp3 player market with the iPod, then customers will only have three choices:

1. Subscribe through iTunes because they want the iPod
2. Hack the iPod which Real Network is doing already
3. Or, ignore the most reliable portable mp3 player out there and deal with having a few files on their computers or on another less prominent player.

This is all great news for digital music fans, but we'll have to wait and see how the recording industry responds to this cheap-for-all music model.

Is it sufficient to bring back the revenue streams that songwriters and singers have been losing to totally free services such as Kazaa and Grokster? No one knows.

This article may be freely distributed as long as there's an active link to <http://www.rapidlingo.com> Syd Johnson Editor

## **Your One Year-Old's Development**

**By Adwina Jackson**

The first birthday is always exciting to celebrate. If you're a new parent, this event always lingers in your mind and you just probably can't wait to invite your families and friends to have fun in the extraordinary occasion.

Day after day, you've seen them growing bigger and smarter. Each time they're able to reach the next developmental stage, you and your spouse are indulged in great happiness.

One of the most cheering moments about this is when you see them make their first steps alone. You'll get into the unspoken emotion just like other parents do.

However, some of you perhaps haven't been going through this feeling as your one year-old baby isn't able to walk yet. Actually, you shouldn't be worried about this. Each child is unique and has a different development from the others.

Then, what things babies can do when they reach their first year of life? Generally, here they are:

1. Take their first steps alone – Once you see them walking, you'll be surprised on how far they can walk without your hand on theirs guiding. Sometimes they tiptoe, and it's exactly a funny and incredible thing you shouldn't miss out. Get a camera to capture the moment!

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2. Say 'mama', 'papa', 'dada' – Encourage your babies to talk by always talking, too. Most babies can say the three words mentioned when they're one year-old, even though they probably don't understand the meaning of them yet.

3. Understand simple instructions – It's exciting to see your babies understand what you want them to do. When you say 'bye-bye', they will abruptly move their hands and make the bye-bye gesture. Or, when you tell them to look at you or your spouse, for example 'where's Daddy?', they'll move their head and look into their daddy's eyes. Of course you need to stimulate them over and over to make them recognize which one is which.

4. Point at things they're interested in – Your babies will point at objects they're fond of. They'll also say 'ooh' while pointing, making the 'target' precise.

5. Move their hands and body rhythmically to a music played – Some babies begin to 'dance' between the ages of 7–10 months-old. Whenever they listen to music, especially the one that they love, you'll grin as you see their hands and body flourishing along the tune.

If your babies don't do the things above, again, no need to worry. They'll reach the stage in several weeks or months. Develop the bonds of love between the two of you.

Enjoy the moments you all have together with the kids. Happy first birthday to your babies!

Adwina Jackson is a wife and mother of a young boy. She's also the editor of Inspiring Parenting, an online source of valuable parenting information. Please visit

for

helpful and free parenting info. Observe your children's health, growth and development by clicking the website.

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