

# Music Together Supports The Creative Curriculum for Preschool

As a non-performance oriented, playful approach to early childhood music education, the Music Together curriculum aligns with key components of The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, including the belief that discovery and exploration are integral to learning. Accessible to all learning styles and abilities, the Music Together curriculum also naturally fosters children's critical thinking skills, creativity, and confidence.

## **Teaching Strategies GOLD™ Objectives for Development and Learning**

The Music Together curriculum supports the Teaching Strategies GOLD™ Objectives for Development and Learning. In addition to Objectives 34 (music concepts) and 35 (movement concepts), Music Together can support these other objectives:

### **Social-Emotional: Objectives 1–3. Regulates own emotions and behavior; Establishes and sustains positive relationships; Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations**

- Music Together activities provide children with opportunities to explore how to manage and express their feelings through music and movement.
- As the participation of adults, regardless of music ability, is an integral component of the Music Together program model, classes and activities naturally foster positive relationships between children and adults.
- The group music-making experience solidifies bonds between children and supports children's prosocial and turn-taking skills.

### **Physical: Objectives 4–7. Demonstrates traveling skills, balancing skills, gross-motor manipulative skills, fine-motor strength, and coordination**

- Music Together's large movement activities support body awareness, coordination, and balance.
- Instrument play and fingerplays help children to develop fine-motor skills and hand and finger strength.

### **Language: Objectives 8–10. Listens to and understands increasingly complex language; Uses language to express thoughts and needs; Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills**

- Music Together song activities support children's active listening skills, vocabulary development, and ability to recognize and discriminate sounds.
- Songbooks provide opportunities for musical storytelling.

### **Cognitive: Objectives 11–12, 14. Demonstrates positive approaches to learning; Remembers and connects experiences; Uses symbols and images to represent something not present**

- Music Together naturally supports children's approaches to learning through activities that foster curiosity, inventiveness, and a disposition to explore and experiment. Activities also exercise children's attention skills, cognitive flexibility and persistence.
- Since music-making is so much fun, Music Together classes can help children become more engaged in the classroom, and more motivated to learn.

- Suggestions on how to incorporate music-making into daily classroom activities outside of music class and at home are an integral part of the Music Together program model such that music-making in different settings can help children to connect different experiences.
- Symbolic representation in the Music Together songbooks and “SongCards” allow children to form correlations between the written word, images, musical notation, and the songs they are singing.

### **Literacy: Objectives 15–17. Demonstrates phonological awareness, knowledge of the alphabet, knowledge of print and its uses**

- Music Together songs without words (sung on specific vocables or phonemes), songs with rhymes, and repetition of these songs support children’s phonological development.
- Various Music Together songs and rhymes help children practice the manipulation of sounds in language and expose them to alliteration and variation in syllable stress.
- Children’s alphabet knowledge is developed through Music Together songs, rhymes, chants, and SongCard materials that expose children to distinct sounds associated with specific letters.
- Music Together songbooks and song cards help familiarize children with print materials, and activities that specifically support pre-literacy skills are highlighted in the teacher materials.

### **Mathematics: Objectives 20 and 23. Uses number concepts and operations; Demonstrates knowledge of patterns**

- Some Music Together songs can incorporate numbers, counting, and quantity, giving children a fun and different way to explore math concepts. The SongCard Guide includes activity suggestions for teachers that addresses numerical awareness.
- Music Together’s rhythmic chants in varied meters familiarize children with concepts of patterning and proportion.

### **Science and Technology: Objectives 25 and 27. Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics of living things; Demonstrates knowledge of Earth’s environment**

- Learning about living things and the environment happens in the subject matter of many Music Together songs.

### **Social Studies: Objectives 29–31. Demonstrates knowledge about self; Shows basic understanding of people and how they live; Explores change related to familiar people or places**

- Music Together songs are inclusive of the variety of cultures, communities, and families that exist in the world, and provide children with a fun way to learn to identify, appreciate, and respect differences among people.
- Many Music Together songs explore common elements of children’s surroundings, providing a fun way for children to learn about the environment and people in their lives.
- The family songbook includes “Musical Memories” pages that can assist teachers and caregivers in helping children to connect music to themselves, people in their lives, and to their experiences.

### **English Language Acquisition: Objectives 37 and 38. Demonstrates progress in listening to and understanding English; Demonstrates progress in speaking English**

- Music Together’s supportive materials for teachers provide suggestions on how to use song activities to support learning for the English Language Learner.