

# Music Together Preschool Aligns with Reggio Emilia Principles

## The Image of the Child

Music Together views children as highly competent learners, co-creators of their own learning, innovators of new possibilities, naturally joyful and expressive, open to suggestions, emulators of all that surrounds them, and significant influencers of each other and of adults in their lives. Music Together's image of the child forms a basis for all planning; problem-solving; work with children, teachers, and parents; assessment of progress; and continuous improvements.

## Partnership with Children

- Music Together gently works with children as caring and skillful partners in musical samplings, explorations, and expressions and allows for and accommodates differences in learning styles, personalities, and individual readiness.
- Music Together includes children's interests, ideas, cultures, and contributions and helps to build self-confidence, self-sufficiency, and high self-esteem.

## Joy in Everything

- Music Together offers joyful experiences in music and movement throughout the program. The guidelines, encouragements, and modeling are all designed to be positive in every aspect of the sessions.
- Music Together provides guidance for extending the Music Together elements into the flow of the school day and using them in a variety of ways. Some are for musical transitions between activities and for arriving in class and going home; augmenting dramatic play, group and individual explorations, and projects; and for revisiting the experiences that the children had during the Music Together sessions.

## The Image of the Teacher

- Music Together views the music teachers and the classroom teachers as competent and caring professionals who are supportive and significant contributors to children's musical growth when given adequate information and opportunities. They also serve as powerful role models when participating with children in musical learning activities.

## The Processes of Exploring and Expressing

- Music Together assists adults and children in collaborating to explore new areas of learning, revisit known areas for reinforcement and new discoveries, and to find new ways for expressing ideas, feelings, and possibilities for enhanced relationships.
- Music Together provides songbooks, song cards, and music CDs for each collection for use in the classroom to support explorations and extending the learning outside of the Music Together sessions.

## The Role of Time

Music Together provides music and movement experiences that are compatible with the rhythms of children at different ages and guides teachers in adapting to the receptivity of each learning group and the sustainability of each musical activity.

## **A Community of Learners**

- Music Together builds a compelling learning environment of music, movement, and thematic treatments that are engaging for children.
- Music Together supports each individual child's needs for being accepted, understood, and appreciated; having influence with their peers and adults; and accomplishing wonderful things with their learning group through music and movement.
- Music Together guides and supports productive group processes and assists children in taking leadership and in learning how to become effective group members.

## **The Role of the Environment**

Music Together structures a learning environment that is compelling and reinforces an energetic, joyful, and productive experience for children and adults. It includes musical instruments and, on occasion, supportive materials, such as scarves, kitchen utensils, teddy bears, dramatic play items, and toys of various kinds. It also provides for equitable participation by all children, a communal experience while making music and moving with the songs, and opportunities to play along with instruments.

## **An Emergent Curriculum**

- Music Together incorporates children's interests and fascinations into the Music Together sessions as a primary vehicle for immediate, complex, comprehensive, and sustained learning.
- Music Together invites children to contribute ideas, lyrics, gestures, large movement ideas, and musical instrument play as valued influences for the group.

## **A Project Approach**

Music Together supports a project approach through its structure of musical activities that engage children and their classroom teachers in revisiting songs each session, stimulating further interest and research into elements that relate to the Music Together experiences, inspiring children to add on to the musical experiences during Music Together sessions, encouraging children to expand on their interests and incorporate the Music Together music into their classroom activities, and stimulating children to continue with various in-depth explorations and expressions.

## **The 100 Languages of Children**

- Music Together provides immersion in several of the over 100 languages that children experience and can develop as part of their multiple intelligences. A few that Music Together provides that support holistic and comprehensive learning and development are singing; rhyming; chanting; tones, pitches, and scales; storytelling; various musical instruments; dancing; gestures; facial expressions; emotions; graphic illustration; musical notation; math; speaking; and reading.
- Music Together employs many materials and processes to encourage and support learning, such as CDs with songs, chants, instrumentals, tonal patterns, and poems; songbooks with songs, illustrations, and guidelines for teachers and family members; a wide array of musical instruments; supporting items, such as scarves, toys, and things from home; small, medium, and large gestures; facial expressions; large body movements; moving around and dancing; dramatic play; counting; reading; introduction of new words, animals, and diverse characters; song cards to reinforce and extend the musical experience and bridge to other learning domains; and treatment of diverse cultural elements.

## **The Image of the Parent and Family**

- Music Together views parents, family members, and extended family members as essential partners in comprehensive collaboration to build and sustain a dynamic and rich musical learning and development environment for their children.
- Music Together believes that parents and family members are often a child's first and strongest educational influences and supporters of ongoing learning and development.
- Music Together provides songbooks; music CDs for home and travel; DVDs for orientation on how children develop musical appreciation and competence; newsletters; an online musical instrument store; and opportunities to participate in their child's weekly Music Together sessions and periodic sing-alongs at school.

## **The Importance of Relationships**

- Music Together believes in and establishes relationships with children, staff members, parents, and family members that are friendly, safe, and supportive and are the basis for effective learning and development.
- Music Together develops and nourishes relationships that are respectful, gentle, caring, collaborative, invigorating, diverse, imaginative, and adventurous.
- Music Together conducts its sessions so that there is mutual and equitable support among all participants, and mutual influence is invited and encouraged to flow in all directions, including among children, teachers, parents, and family members.

## **The Image of the School**

- Music Together views the school as an essential community institution where diverse influences can support optimal learning and development for children, their families, and the community.
- Music Together augments and supports the curriculum with unique music and movement experiences that contribute to enhancing all learning throughout the school program.

## **The Image of the Community**

- Music Together views the community and context in which the school is situated as an important influence and potential contributor to learning and development in school and in the Music Together sessions and related activities.
- Music Together incorporates community and cultural influences in its lesson plans and in its activities with children and teachers.