

Music Together® Supports the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-3) and Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-3)

Music Together® is a music and movement curriculum dedicated to nurturing every child's innate musicality. The Music Together curriculum is rooted in Developmentally Appropriate Practice specific to the music classroom and hence the teaching approach, activities, and curriculum content provide early childhood educators with teaching processes that support and deepen positive adult-child interactions in the early childhood classroom.

The Music Together curriculum supports the following subscales in the ECERS-3 and ITERS-3 Environment Rating Scales:

Space and Furnishings Subscale

Room Arrangement

Music Together professionals can provide guidance for creating a rich music area that encourages both children's group and individual exploration of music to extend the elements of the music activities in the class experience.

Display for Children

Music Together curriculum includes developmentally appropriate materials for use by children that enhance the music making experience and the classroom environment; they can be left for children to play with during free time.

Language and Books (ITERS-3)/Language and Literacy (ECERS-3) Subscales

Encouraging Vocabulary Development

- *English Language Development:* Dual-language learners can benefit from the English language experiences provided through music, since elements of words may be more available to a child when sung than when spoken. This is due to both the repetition and the slightly slower overall tempo of singing compared to speech.
- *Receptive Language:* Music Together song activities support children's listening skills, vocabulary development, and the ability to recognize and discriminate sounds.
- *Expressive Language:* Many Music Together songs allow children to practice the manipulation of sounds in language, and expose them to alliteration and variation in syllable stress. The Music Together songbooks provide opportunities for musical storytelling.
- Symbolic representation in the Music Together songbooks (in terms of words, illustrations, and musical notes) allow children to form correlations between the written word, images, musical notation, and the songs they are singing.

Staff Use of Books with Children

- Each child receives a songbook, and they are encouraged to explore and interact with the songbook independently or as a group.
- There are Music Together Singalong Storybooks available to supplement the music activities. They are beautifully illustrated picture books that bring favorite Music Together Songs to life and inspire bonding, pre-literacy development, and imaginative play between children and their favorite adults.
- Music Together songbooks and Singalong Storybooks help to familiarize children with print materials through music. The songbooks can be used independently or for shared literacy activities between adults and children.

Encouraging Children's Use of Books

- Each child receives a songbook, and they are encouraged to explore and interact with the songbook independently.
- Music Together Singalong Storybooks are available as board books, which young children can use on their own to foster their natural learning cycle of play, discovery, repetition, and mastery.

Activities (ITERS-3)/Learning Activities (ECER-3) Subscales

Fine Motor

- Music Together includes fingerplays and instrument play alongs that foster hand-eye coordination as well as hand and finger dexterity.

Music and Movement

- Classroom teachers are guided in ways to incorporate music into the daily classroom routine and on how music can inform and enhance learning in other disciplines.
- Music Together includes opportunities to sing, play instruments, move, and verbalize to demonstrate awareness of the expressive element of music such as rhythm, dynamics, tempo, and mood.
- Music Together is aligned with principal educational ideas, standards, philosophies, and curricula.

Dramatic Play

- Music Together repertoire includes engaging songs and chants that create opportunities for storytelling and dramatic play.

Math/number

- Some Music Together songs incorporate numbers, counting, and quantity, which give children a fun and different way to explore math concepts.
- Music Together's songs and rhythmic chants familiarize children with concepts of pattern, sequencing, and proportion, all reinforced through repetition.

Appropriate Use of Technology

- Music Together includes award-winning recordings that are artistically conceived and support and encourage children to make music through singing, improvisation, and creative movement as part of their daily lives in the classroom and at home.

Promoting Acceptance of Diversity

- Music Together repertoire includes songs from many different cultures, some in different languages, as well as newly composed songs in various tonalities, meters and musical styles.

Gross Motor

- The Music Together curriculum incorporates large movement activities that support motor coordination, body awareness, body control, and balance.

Interaction Subscale

Peer Interaction

- Music Together includes songs, chants, and movement activities that can be developed as partner activities that adults can model during class and subsequently can be replicated while playing with others.

Staff-Child Interaction

- Music Together repertoire broadens the classroom professional's content for Staff-Child Interactions.

Program Structure Subscale

Schedule and Transitions

- Music Together builds routines and smooth transitions into each class lesson plan, and provides classroom teachers with music-based strategies that enhance daily class routines and transitions.

Free Play

- The participatory Music Together class experience encourages creative expression and improvisation, and the use of music and movement during free play is encouraged and supported.
- Music Together activities include opportunities for children to select and experiment with a variety of instruments and other sound sources while accompanying singing and recorded music, which extends to free play.

Group Play Activities

- By its very nature, music is fun and engaging for young children. Group music-making is the focus of the Music Together class and serves as the foundation for small group and individual creative expression and improvisation during free play opportunities.