

Music Together® Supports the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework *Infants/Toddlers*

Music Together® is rooted in Developmentally Appropriate Practice and the importance of the adult as a model for the young child; therefore, the teaching approach and activities provide early childhood educators with teaching processes that support and deepen positive adult-child interactions in the early childhood classroom.

*Music Together is the only music offering that has a mutually agreed upon Crosswalk Alignment to The Classroom Assessment Scoring System developed by Teachstone.

*The official Music Together/CLASS Crosswalk alignment is available upon request.

Central Domain 1: Approaches to Learning

Sub-Domain: *Emotional and Behavioral Self-Regulation*

- Certain Music Together songs, such as lullabies and songs with slow *tempi*, create opportunities for infants and toddlers to manage their feelings and emotions through singing and movement with the help of caring adults.
- The Music Together repertoire provides classroom teachers with proactive and positive ways to help infants and toddlers manage their feelings and emotions in a developmentally appropriate way through music.

Sub-Domain: *Cognitive Self-Regulation: (Executive Functioning)*

- Music Together activities provide opportunities for infant and toddlers to maintain and sustain attention with support of a caring adult.
- Select Music Together songs support infants' and toddlers' attention-shifting and flexibility in actions by substituting different lyrics to familiar melodies.
- Music Together class time is a fun way to help infants and toddlers demonstrate persistence in their actions and behaviors.

Sub-Domain: *Initiative and Curiosity*

- Music Together employs materials and processes that maintain and encourage infant and toddler curiosity, such as recordings and songbooks with songs and illustrations that can be used both in the classroom and individually.
- Music Together activities encourage infant and toddler curiosity and initiative through self-expression and creative independence.
- Select Music Together activities include instrument play where children can experiment with them in their own way.

Sub-Domain: *Creativity*

- Music Together links songs with movement so that infants and toddlers can engage in creative movement as a form of expression to increase understanding and learning.
- The Music Together repertoire and class processes support infants' and toddlers' imagination to create their own movement.

- Music Together includes opportunities for infants and toddlers to improvise body movement and rhythmic accompaniment with instruments to a variety of songs that show imagination in play and interactions with others.
- Some Music Together songs and processes prompt and encourage infant and toddler creativity and imagination by inviting, accepting, and including their suggestions into music and movement class activities.

Central Domain 2: Social and Emotional Development

Sub-Domain: Relationships with Adults

- Music Together creates positive group music experiences that solidify bonds between infants/toddlers and teachers, promoting a sense of community in the classroom.
- With a comprehensive home component, Music Together music activities can also support positive relationships between infants/toddlers and their parents or other family members.
- The Music Together repertoire broadens the classroom professional's opportunities and methods for positive interactions that support secure relationships.
- Music Together's take-home materials (recordings and songbooks) give adults in the infants' and toddlers' lives musical tools, knowledge, and a platform through which to interact in sensitive and responsive ways.

Sub-Domain: Relationships with Other Children

- The Music Together repertoire and class processes create a joyful atmosphere in the classroom, which promotes positive affect and supports infant/toddler relationships with others.
- The group music-making at the core of Music Together enables infants' and toddlers' interactions with others, which supports imitation and play.
- Music Together creates group music experiences that solidify bonds among infants and toddlers promoting a sense of community.

Sub-Domain: Emotional Functioning

- Music Together classes naturally support healthy emotion expression by giving infants and toddlers an alternative avenue through which to express themselves.
- Various Music Together songs and song variations support infant's and toddler's development of emotion knowledge with the support of a familiar adult.
- Music Together activities support the prosocial skills of care and concern among infants and toddlers.

Sub-Domain: Sense of Identity and Belonging

- Music Together uses the developmentally appropriate practice of "accept and include" where music and movement activity variations are developed by following the lead of infants and toddlers, honoring and respecting their creative contributions.
- Music Together activities incorporate group processes using infants' and toddlers' interests and fascinations as a primary vehicle for becoming aware of oneself and showing confidence in their own abilities.
- The Music Together approach is designed to include all children, both typically abled and those with special needs, which can promote an understanding of characteristics of self and others.
- The Music Together repertoire and processes create a joyful atmosphere in the classroom, which promotes positive climate and fosters a sense of belonging.
- Music Together songs are inclusive of the variety of cultures, communities, and families that exist in the world, supporting identity and an overall sense of belonging in the school community.

Central Domain 3: Language and Literacy (Language and Communication)

Sub-Domain: Attending and Understanding

- Music Together employs processes that maintain and encourage infants' and toddlers' interest which fosters an understanding using a musical form of communication.
- Music Together classroom materials support attention and understanding by allowing infants and toddlers to be visually and tactilely involved as they manipulate them as part of the Music Together class or in their free play.
- Music Together songs offer infants and toddlers repetition and intentional opportunities for language communication because the elements of words are more available when sung than spoken.
- Music Together activities can be adapted for general use in the classroom, enabling teachers to communicate and foster language experiences through music.

Sub-Domain: Communicating and Speaking

- The coordination of movement and music in the Music Together repertoire provides infants and toddlers a non-verbal vehicle to communicate interest for engagement in music to gain information from their peers and caring adults.
- By communicating an interest in immediate music making through rudimentary singing and coordinated movement, infants and toddlers foster interaction among peers.
- Music Together's "songs without words" (songs sung on specific vocables, or phonemes) provide opportunities for a teacher to accept and include sounds or words that an infant or toddler initiates, offering novelty for continued repetition that supports infants' and toddlers' communication and language skills.
- Music Together's technique of singing with an infant when they coo and gurgle by imitating and varying the lyrics of the song to include the sounds the baby is making can support an infant's emerging communication skills.

Sub-Domain: Vocabulary

- Music Together songs expose infants and toddlers to words in increasing number in communication using music.
- Music Together's technique of coordinating movement with lyrics, supports infants' and toddlers' understanding of words without yet being able to speak them.
- Music Together's songbook supports infants' and toddlers' vocabulary by connecting pictures with the words in a song's lyrics.

Sub-Domain: Emergent Literacy

- Music Together songs and chants provide opportunities for infants and toddlers to attend, repeat, and use rhymes, phrases, or refrains from them.
- Music Together's songbook provides infants and toddlers an opportunity to appreciate and handle a book.
- The Music Together songbook allows infants and toddlers to relate the music activities to pictures in the book.
- By using the Music Together songbook, an infant or toddler can show their recognition of a particular song by finding and identifying the coordinating picture.

Central Domain 4: Cognition

Sub-Domain: Exploration and Discovery

- Select Music Together songs are accompanied by rhythm instruments, providing infants and toddlers with opportunities for active exploration and understanding through multiple senses.

- Music Together activities incorporate infants' and toddlers' interests and fascinations as a primary vehicle to explore people and objects that support understanding of self, others, and objects.
- The Music Together songbooks and instruments allow infants and toddlers to be visually and tactilely involved as they manipulate them in class or in their free play, enhancing experimentation to discover "what, why, and how."

Sub-Domain: *Memory*

- Music Together's home component provides opportunities to repeat the diverse music activities in school and at home allowing infants and toddlers an opportunity to recognize similarities and differences among them.
- Music Together's ritual activities and processes help infants and toddlers recognize the stability of music content and process along with the people that engage in them.
- The repetition of Music Together music activities creates memories as a foundation for more complex actions and thoughts.
- The Music Together repertoire and process initiates the circle of learning between school and home to create memories for infants and toddlers of positive nurturance through music making.

Sub-Domain: *Reasoning and Problem-Solving*

- Select Music Together activities involving instrument play support reasoning and problem-solving in infants and toddlers as they explore multiple ways to use them.
- Select Music Together songs prompt and encourage child-directed reasoning and opportunities to plan ahead through inviting, accepting, and including children's suggestions into music and movement activities.

Sub-Domain: *Emergent Mathematical Thinking*

- Some Music Together songs incorporate numbers, counting, and quantity, giving infants and toddlers a fun and different way to explore math concepts.
- Music Together's songs and rhythmic chants in varied meters, tonality, and musical form and style provide infants and toddlers an opportunity to understand similar and different characteristics.
- Music Together movement activities provide opportunities to develop spatial awareness.

Sub-Domain: *Imitation and Symbolic Representation and Play*

- The Music Together songbook includes the written word, images, and musical notation for the songs they are singing which supports understanding that symbols have meaning.
- Many Music Together songs introduce infants and toddlers to characteristics and properties of various things in their environment.
- Music Together songs are inclusive of the variety of cultures, communities, and families that exist in the world.
- Music Together activities provide infants and toddlers opportunities to symbolically represent sounds, gestures, actions, and behaviors through connection with song lyrics.
- Integral to Music Together processes are the participation and modeling of caring adults which fosters opportunities for imitation through positive interaction.

Central Domain 5: Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

Sub-Domain: *Perception*

- Music Together rhythm instruments and props provide opportunities for infants and toddlers to understand them through observation, holding, handling, and experimenting to gain understanding of cause and effect relationships.

- Music Together’s non-formal approach allows children to direct their own actions, experiences, and interactions within a music context.

Sub Domain: *Gross Motor*

- Some Music Together songs incorporate large-movement activities that support infants’ and toddlers’ body awareness, effective and efficient use of large muscles, and position in relationship to their environment.

Sub-Domain: *Fine Motor*

- Music Together’s instrument play-alongs foster coordination of hand-eye movement while they explore and play them.
- Music Together’s fingerplays support infants’ and toddlers’ hand and finger dexterity.

Sub-domain: *Health, Safety, and Nutrition*

- Music Together music activities provide group process experiences where infants and toddlers practice safe behaviors with the support of adults.
- Select Music Together songs have lyrics that include health, safety, and nutrition themes which provide infants and toddlers opportunities to increase their interest and understanding of their importance.