

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 play, discovery, and exploration are integral to learning. Music Together also supports The Creative Curriculum goals of nurturing both whole-child development and individual skill progression, of involving families in a child's learning and development, and of providing teachers with ongoing support and mentoring.

The Music Together curriculum supports the Teaching Strategies Objectives for Development and Learning. In addition to Objectives 34 (explores musical concepts and expression) and 35 (explores dance and movement concepts), Music Together supports 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, locomotor and non-locomotor skills, 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, ability to recognize and discriminate sounds, and receptive and expressive language skills.
- Songbooks provide opportunities for musical storytelling and lyric variation activities.

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.
- Many songs and chants provide opportunities for sociodramatic play through music, as well as changes to engage in symbolic representation.

Literacy: Objectives 15–17. Demonstrates phonological awareness/phonics skills/ word recognition; 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 print materials that expose children to distinct sounds associated with specific letters.
- Music Together songbooks and song cards help familiarize children with print concepts and foster print appreciation, while activities that specifically support pre-literacy skills are highlighted in the teacher materials.

Mathematics: Objectives 20, 21, and 23. Uses number concepts and operations; Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes; 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.
- Large movement activities give children experiences to develop their spatial awareness, and experimentation with instruments can include opportunities to discuss shapes in a music context.
- Music Together’s rhythmic chants in varied meters familiarize children with concepts of patterning and proportion.

Science and Technology: Objectives 24–28. Uses scientific inquiry skills; Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics of living things; Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials; Demonstrates knowledge of Earth’s environment; Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks.

- Many Music Together song variation activities provide children with the opportunity to problem solve, observe, and experiment as they come up with their own word and movement ideas.
- Learning about living things, the surrounding environment, and physical properties of objects and materials happens in the subject matter of many Music Together songs. Word and lyric substitution and variation opportunities provide a platform for further exploring these content areas.

- Every classroom receives guidance on how to make the music and instruments accessible to the students to use on their own during center time.

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.
- Song variation opportunities can provide children with an inviting and enjoyable way to share something about themselves with their classmates.

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.