

Music Together Aligns with Head Start Program Performance Standards

1302.31 Teaching and the Learning Environment

The Music Together curriculum and enrichment resources:

- Support effective teaching that aligns with the Head Start Early Learning Framework. [1302.31(a)]
- Include all children, both typically abled and those with special needs. [1302.31(a)]
- Emphasize nurturing and responsive practices, interactions, and environments that foster trust and emotional security through the music teaching processes. [1302.31(b)(i)]
- Incorporate language-rich songs and chants. [1302.31(b)(i)]
- Support social, emotional, behavioral, and language development through music. [1302.31(b)(i)(ii)]
- Support all children's engagement in learning experiences and activities through music. [1302.31(b)(i)]
- Include movement activities that can be integrated into daily routines to foster physical activities.

1302.32 Curricula

The Music Together curriculum and enrichment resources:

- Are based in, and strongly committed to, developmentally appropriate practice. [1302.32(a)]
- Are based on research in music education and child development.
- Include materials such as recordings, an illustrated Family Songbook, and other print materials to support curriculum implementation. [1302.32(a)(i)]
- Are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Framework and are sufficiently content rich to promote measurable progress toward development and learning therein. [1302.32(a)(iii)]
- Have an organized developmental scope and sequence based on how children learn music. [1302.32(a)(iii)]
- Include ready-made lesson plans for teachers' use and provide for flexibility for teachers to plan their own integration of music into their curriculum. [1302.32(a)(2)]
- Include professional development opportunities to support teachers in their continuous improvement efforts. [1302.32(a)(2)]

1302.34 Parent and Family Engagement in Education and Child Development Services

The Music Together curriculum and enrichment resources:

- Include recordings and songbooks which are sent home with every child to create an excellent opportunity for fostering parent and family engagement. (1302.34)
- Include parents as an integral part of the program and encourage them to engage in their child's music education by providing them home recordings and print materials. [1302.34(a)]
- Include print materials for teachers to regularly communicate with parents to ensure they are well-informed about the Music Together music curriculum. [1302.34(b)(2)]

1302.45 Child Mental Health and Social and Emotional Well-being

Research has shown that regular music-making can decrease depression, and that singing can reduce anxiety in children and adults. The mitigating effects of music-making on these major mental health problems make participation in music an excellent supplement to appropriate mental health intervention. Consistent use of Music Together in the classroom can:

- Create a joyful, light-hearted atmosphere that supports a program-wide culture that promotes children's mental health, social and emotional well-being, and overall health. [1302.45(a)]
- Provide support for effective classroom management and positive learning environments using music. [1302.45(1)]

1302.50 Family Engagement

The Music Together curriculum and enrichment resources:

- Recognize parents as their children's primary teachers and provides intentional strategies to engage parents in their children's learning and development through family music making. [1302.50(b)(1)]
- Provide opportunities using music to support parent-child relationships. [1302.50(b)(1)]
- Provide family engagement strategies, including two-generation approaches and father engagement, through their recordings and materials that are sent home with every child. [1302.50(b)(1)]
- Provide guidance on hosting family music events that are fun and build a community which welcomes all families with their unique cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds. [1302.50(b)(2)]
- Provide opportunities for two-way communication between staff and parents regarding children's music interests and development. [1302.50(b)(2)]
- Provide a unique opportunity to leverage community partnerships and other funding sources because Music Learning Supports All Learning™. [1302.509(a)]

1302.53 Community Partnerships and Coordination with Other Early Childhood and Education Programs

- The mission of Music Together is to provide the highest quality music and movement experiences to as many young children as possible, and to involve their parents and other adult caregivers, including early childhood professionals. Music Together is an ideal partner to fulfill Head Start's mandate to connect with organizations or businesses that provide support and resources to families. [1302.53(2)]
- Provided activity adaptations and support for educators working with neurodiverse learners aid the work of music therapists, occupational therapists, and speech and language pathologists in their interventions with children and families. [1302.53(2)(i)]