

# Music Together Supports the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework Preschool Children

*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*

- Some Music Together songs provide strategies for young children to independently manage strong emotions through music.
- The Music Together repertoire provides classroom teachers with proactive and positive ways to help young children manage their feelings and emotions in a developmentally appropriate way through music.
- The processes for the Music Together class include routines that support young children as they learn to follow rules, routines, and manage actions and behaviors in a music-making context.

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

- Music Together activities provide opportunities to increase a young child's ability to control impulses and learn how to take turns.
- Music Together activities provide opportunities for young children to maintain and sustain attention.
- Select Music Together songs support young children's attention-shifting and flexibility in actions by substituting different lyrics to familiar melodies.
- Music Together class time is a fun way to help young children demonstrate persistence in their actions and behaviors.
- Many songs from the Music Together repertoire require children to hold information in mind to perform it from beginning to end.
- Using the Music Together songbook provides young children an opportunity to take care of a book.

### *Sub-Domain: Initiative and Curiosity*

- Music Together employs materials and processes, such as recordings and songbooks with illustrations, that encourage and maintain young children's curiosity.
- Music Together activities encourage young children's curiosity and initiative through self-expression and creative independence.
- Select Music Together activities include instrument play, where young children can experiment with them in their own way.

## Sub-Domain: *Creativity*

- Music Together links songs with movement so that young children can plan and engage in creative movement as a form of self-expression.
- The Music Together repertoire and class processes support young children’s imagination to create their own songs, movement, and accompaniments with instruments and props.
- Music Together music activities include opportunities for young children to improvise lyrics, melody, body movement, and rhythmic accompaniment that show imagination in both play and interactions with others.
- Some Music Together songs and processes prompt and encourage young children’s 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 with participatory adults that support engagement and maintain positive relationships and interactions with adults in the music context.
- With a comprehensive home component, Music Together activities can support positive relationships between young children 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 processes support young children’s prosocial and cooperative behaviors with adults both in the classroom and at home.

### Sub-Domain: *Relationships with Other Children*

- The Music Together repertoire and processes create a joyful atmosphere in the classroom, which promotes positive affect and allows young children to engage in, and maintain, positive interactions and relationships with other children.
- Music Together activities provide opportunities for young children to engage in cooperative play with other children in the music context.
- Music Together creates group music experiences that solidify bonds among young children promoting a sense of community.

### Sub-Domain: *Emotional Functioning*

- Music Together classes naturally support healthy emotion expression by giving young children an alternative avenue through which to express themselves.
- Select songs and song variations found in the Music Together repertoire support young children’s development of emotion knowledge.
- Select Music Together activities support the prosocial skills of care and concern among young children.
- When using Music Together songs, young children acquire musical methods to manage their emotions independently.

### 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 young children, fostering a sense of self as a unique individual.

- The Music Together approach is designed to include all young 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 allow young children to attend to the communication and language of others in the music context.
- Select Music Together songs offer young children an opportunity to respond to suggestions for movement and lyric improvisation which may include increasingly complex language and communication from others.
- Music Together activities can be adapted for general use in the classroom, enabling teachers to communicate non-verbally and foster language experiences through music.

#### *Sub-Domain: Communicating and Speaking*

- A variety of contrasting music activities support young children in using appropriate social rules while engaging in music making.
- Music Together print materials for classroom and home use serve as a platform for extending songs to “story songs” that provide young children an opportunity for increasingly long, detailed, and sophisticated means of communication through music.

#### *Sub-Domain: Vocabulary*

- Music Together songs provide opportunities for young children to understand and use a wide variety of words that serve a multitude of purposes.
- Music Together’s word-substitution activities support young children’s understanding of word categories.
- Music Together’s songbook visually supports young children’s growing vocabulary by connecting pictures with the words in a song’s lyrics.

#### *Sub-Domain: Phonological Awareness*

- Music Together’s “songs without words” (songs sung on specific vocables, or phonemes) help children to understand that words are composed of smaller segments of sounds.
- Music Together songs offer young children repetition and intentional opportunities for language communication through singing because the elements of words are more available when sung than spoken.

#### *Sub-Domain: Print and Alphabet Knowledge*

- Music Together songbooks help to familiarize children with print materials and provide opportunities for creative storytelling through music. The songbooks can be used independently or for shared literacy activities with other children and with adults.
- Music Together songbooks help children recognize that the musical note represents sung language and that notes grouped together form musical phrasing, or a tune. The songbooks also support children’s understanding that print conveys meaning, that letters are grouped to form words, and that written words represent spoken language.

## Sub-Domain: *Comprehension and Text Structure*

- The Music Together print materials serve as a platform for extending songs to “story songs” that provide young children an opportunity for understanding of narrative structure through musical storytelling.
- Teachers can ask questions about a Music Together song to understand their comprehension of the story in the lyrics.

## **Central Domain 4: Cognition**

### Sub-Domain: *Counting and Cardinality*

- Some Music Together songs incorporate numbers, counting, and quantity, giving young children a fun and different way to explore number names and the count sequence.
- Select songs in the Music Together songbooks provide an opportunity for young children to compare numbers and recognize the number of objects in a small set.

### Sub-Domain: *Operations and Algebraic Thinking*

- Fingerplays and other small movement that accompany select Music Together songs visually facilitate young children’s understanding of addition and subtraction.
- Music Together’s songs and rhythmic chants in varied meters familiarize children with concepts of patterns in an auditory way.

### Sub-Domain: *Measurement*

- Music Together songs are composed in varying lengths, providing young children an opportunity to compare the attributes of differences in length through auditory means and make comparisons among them.

### Sub-Domain: *Geometry and Spatial Sense*

- Music Together movement activities provide opportunities to develop spatial awareness and understand how to position oneself in relationship to others while moving.
- Music Together instrument play and props provide opportunities to develop spatial awareness in the context of a small circle and understand how to position oneself in relationship to others while using them to accompany a song.

### Sub-Domain: *Scientific Inquiry*

- Many Music Together songs introduce young children to characteristics and properties of various things around them, such as animals, vehicles, or seasons. Opportunities for song substitutions and variations also allow young children to give their own descriptions of things in the world around them.

### Sub-Domain: *Reasoning and Problem-Solving*

- Instrument play accompanies select Music Together songs and exposes young children to cause-and-effect relationships, as well as provides them with opportunities to gather information about the instrument and experiment with them or make predictions about them.
- Music Together activities, processes, and songbooks provide opportunities for young children to gather information about the theme of the lyrics and sing about them.
- Music Together songs provide opportunities for young children to ask questions about the content of the lyrics to better understand the world around them.

## **Central Domain 5: Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development**

### Sub Domain: *Gross Motor*

- Music Together incorporates large-movement activities that involve coordination and strength of large muscles.
- Selected Music Together movement activities include circle games and rudimentary folkdance steps that support children in guiding their motions as they interact with objects and other people.

### Sub-Domain: *Fine Motor*

- Music Together's fingerplays and instrument play-alongs create opportunities for young children to demonstrate—with increasing control—strength and coordination of small muscles.
- When using the Music Together songbook, young children experience opportunities to use their small muscles with increasing control and coordination.

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

- Music Together's engaging movement activities provide exercise opportunities.
- Select Music Together songs have lyrics that include health, safety, and nutrition themes which provide young children with fun opportunities to develop knowledge, skills, and routines for health, safety, and nutrition through singing and moving.