



# Play Along

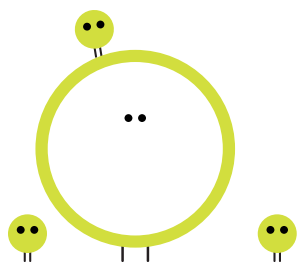
by Music Together



## Play Along at Your School

Since the 1980s, Music Together has been a pioneer in research-based early childhood music education. With Play Along by Music Together, you can raise the quality of a child's early education by touching many important factors all at once—school readiness, family engagement, and teacher professional development.

- **Award-winning music**, including songs representing a wide variety of tonalities, meters, musical styles, and cultures.
- **Teacher and classroom materials**, including CDs/downloads, activity-filled songbooks, lesson plans, online teaching video resources, and instruments.
- **Family materials**, including CDs/downloads, activity-filled songbooks, parent-education support, and online and mobile educational resources for parents.



- **Training, support, and professional development** opportunities for teachers, including written guides, workshops, and online training videos.
- **The tools to meet the New Jersey State Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards** as teachers are educated in how to use music activities to support the learning outcomes and positive learning environment requirements outlined in the standards.

## Music: A Powerful Learning Tool

Participating in music activities engages children's natural learning cycle of play, discovery, repetition, and mastery. Play Along by Music Together fosters children's growth in many areas essential to success in school and life—including the domains specified in the *New Jersey State Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards*.

- **Social/Emotional:** Self-confidence, self-direction, pro-social behaviors, emotion knowledge, positive interactions
- **Visual and Performing Arts:** Appreciation of creative movement, music, and dramatic play/storytelling
- **Health, Safety, and Physical Education:** Competence and confidence in activities that require gross- and fine-motor skills
- **English Language Arts:** Foundational reading skills, phonics and word recognition, speaking and listening, vocabulary acquisition
- **Approaches to Learning:** initiative, engagement, persistence, creativity
- **Mathematics:** Counting and operations, spatial sense
- **Science:** Inquiry skills, familiarity with living things and nature
- **Social Studies, Family, and Life Skills:** knowledge of self, family, community, and other cultures

## Your Partner in Family Engagement

Play Along by Music Together is a powerful tool in helping schools to achieve and maintain high levels of family involvement. The program has been specifically designed to involve parents and create a strong home-school connection, supporting your family engagement plan. Using various, time-tested strategies, we can help you:

- **Support positive family practices**, through music activities that foster positive family attitudes toward education and family bonding

- **Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning**, with our award-winning family materials that go home with every child, a variety of print and video home communications, and online/mobile parent resources
- **Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks**, with professional development opportunities for educators on family engagement strategies
- **Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement**, with a custom measurement tool developed by our research team

Call us to learn more about Play Along by Music Together:  
(800) 728-2692 x353 • [in-school@musictogether.com](mailto:in-school@musictogether.com)



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## Music Bridges the Achievement Gap and Supports Family Engagement

Music Together® curricula have been successfully integrated into public and Head Start schools across the country to comprehensively raise the quality of early learning, both in class and at home. Play Along by Music Together is currently offered in dozens of classrooms in Houston, TX; Bridgeport, CT; and New York, NY.

Music Together has also been an integral part of two large-scale, federally- and state-funded projects designed to bridge the achievement gap for at-risk children in preschool classrooms. In both cases, music was shown to be a powerful learning tool supporting children’s school readiness skills.

### Music for the Very Young Trenton, New Jersey

Since 2000, Music Together has been a part of public pre-K classrooms in the Trenton, NJ, school system through the Music for the Very Young (MVY) program. To date, MVY has served more than 3000 children and their families.

In 2003, the Trenton Community Music School and Music Together partnered with the Education Resources Group on a three-year study of the impact of Music Together on preschool children’s school readiness and long-term literacy. Funded through the U.S. Department of Education: Arts in Education Innovation Grant, results showed that music-making does support the attributes young children need for school success. The study also reported that the Music Together program model helps bring families together through the inclusion of home materials that engage parents and caregivers.

“Your service to the children and their families, teachers, and preschools in Trenton helps us imagine the promise of public education to respond to the needs of a complex and perpetually changing world.”

**Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation**

“This music curriculum has not only given the children a valuable musical education but also enhanced their cognitive, language, and physical learning. The CDs and songbooks that the families receive enhance and enrich the child’s educational experiences as well as the bonding between parent and child. Music Together keeps the families more involved.”

**Enid Forster, Head Start Education Manager**  
Family Services of Westchester (NY)

### Action for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD) Bridgeport, Connecticut

Music Together was a key component of an arts-based program serving vulnerable families with children from birth through third grade. Independent research showed that public and Head Start preschool children whose classes used the Music Together program made significantly greater gains in the cognitive, language, and physical development domains than students in classrooms that were not assigned to receive Music Together (*Michael Cohen Group, external evaluator, 2008*).

A new phase of research began in 2014 under ABCD’s Bridge Together initiative to explore Music Together’s impact on parent/caregiver involvement. Pilot results show that Music Together increases parents’ self-efficacy, awareness, and knowledge of school preparedness, and the positive use of music in young children’s learning (*Michael Cohen Group, external evaluator, 2016*).



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