



Play Along

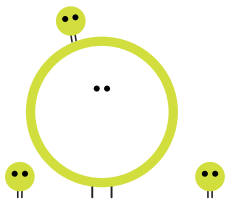
by Music Together



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 2015 Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines** as teachers are educated in how to use music activities to support the child behaviors and instructional strategies outlined by the revised Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines.

See our website for more specifics on how Play Along by Music Together aligns with the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines and supports Texas Rising Star.

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

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 all ten of the domains specified in the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* (updated 2015).

- **Social and emotional development:** self-concept, self-regulation, social awareness
- **Language and communication:** listening comprehension, speech production, vocabulary
- **Emergent literacy reading:** motivation to read, phonological awareness, print concepts
- **Emergent literacy writing:** vocabulary, fine motor skills, letter recognition
- **Mathematics:** counting, patterns, spatial awareness
- **Science:** physical science, life sciences
- **Social studies:** person characteristics, geography, cultural awareness
- **Fine arts:** music skills, dramatic expression, imagination and creativity
- **Physical development and health:** fine and gross motor skills, coordination
- **Technology:** device skills and motivation to try new things

- **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

Visit www.musictogether.com/texas to learn more about Play Along by Music Together for publicly funded prekindergarten programs



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Music Bridges the Achievement Gap and Supports Family Engagement

Music Together® curricula have been successfully integrated into public schools across the country to comprehensively raise the quality of learning, both in class and at home. In Texas, Play Along by Music Together is currently offered in dozens of classrooms in the greater Houston area. Music Together also has a Master Services Contract with HISD as a provider of supplemental curriculum materials.

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.

“ 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)

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.

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*).

“ 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

Watch our video on how
Music Together is making an impact:
www.musictogether.com/texas

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