

# Growing and Learning with Music Together®

Beyond



Maturing

Third Year



Fourth Year

Developing



3rd-4th



5th-6th



2nd




1st Semester

Discovering



**MUSIC  
TOGETHER®**  
BRINGING HARMONY HOME.®

# YOUR CHILD’S JOURNEY THROUGH MUSIC TOGETHER®

	Discovering		Developing		Maturing	
	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semesters 3–4	Semesters 5–6	Third Year	Fourth Year
<div>Starting Music Together as an Infant</div> 	<p>WELCOME TO YOUR MUSIC TOGETHER JOURNEY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As your baby becomes familiar with the music, he'll respond in various ways. Turning toward the sound, making sucking movements, stretching his arms, or kicking his legs—these are all musical responses!</li><li>Your baby may join in by cooing in tones related to the song she is hearing.</li><li>You may notice that your child has a “characteristic gesture”—his own typical physical movement that regularly appears in response to music and music activities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your baby may now engage in “music babble”—making sounds in response to music. Do you notice more babbling after music class? She’s playing—“practicing” the musical sounds she just heard.</li><li>Your child may recognize Music Together songs and find them soothing. If you use a babysitter, recommend putting on the CD if the baby fusses—it’s magic!</li><li>Immediately after a song, your baby may vocalize in pitches related to the melody. Sing those sounds right back to him and watch him smile.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Now a toddler, your child may venture into the circle of activities, choose her own instrument, and show an understanding of many of the classroom rituals.</li><li>Your child may make gestures that you recognize as attempts to initiate an activity from class. Sing back to him—you may keep hearing, “Again! Again!”</li><li>In response to music, your toddler will demonstrate a steady beat for short periods of time. Vigorous movement activities like swinging and bouncing with a parent provide beat feedback for your child’s developing sense of rhythm.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your toddler may start to sing the ends of songs or phrases. As a game, see what happens if you leave off the last word or two.</li><li>Your child may be briefly demonstrating a consistent tempo in his movements. This is an exciting step in his rhythmic development, whether or not he’s aligned with the tempo of the song he’s hearing.</li><li>Your child may begin to be more actively involved in music and movement activities. For example, she may now proudly volunteer favorite animal sounds in class.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There are big changes in your child since he started Music Together. He may now be able to sing part of a familiar song both in tune and in the correct rhythm—remember when he simply cooed in class?</li><li>Your child delights in her growing ability to participate in class! She may take on a leadership role, showing younger children what they can do.</li><li>By the end of your child’s third year, he may sometimes tap a steady beat in sync with the tempo of the song he is hearing, often in response to your rhythmic model.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Now a preschooler, your child has found his own music-making style, singing and moving with ease and enjoyment.</li><li>Your child may play “Music Together class” at home, imitating the teacher’s words and gestures and leading the family in music-making.</li><li>Your child is repeating song collections she enjoyed as a baby. What a difference now in how she experiences and responds to them! It feels new to her as she returns, reviews—and now masters.</li></ul> <p>CONGRATULATIONS!</p>
<div>Starting Music Together as a 1-2-year-old</div> 	<p>WELCOME TO YOUR MUSIC TOGETHER JOURNEY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your child may show an elevated awareness to music, both in and out of class—bouncing to music on TV or vocalizing in response to music in daily life.</li><li>Even the youngest toddler will find a way to request the Music Together music with sound or gesture. Which songs and instruments does your child prefer?</li><li>Always alert to adult behavior and ready to imitate it, your child may now begin to mimic you as you sing or make music.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your child’s face is likely to light up when she sees the Music Together teacher. She may also run up happily for the teacher’s hug after the “Goodbye” song.</li><li>Your toddler may start to sing specific parts of songs and rhymes, especially their endings. Now he often sings the last note of the song accurately.</li><li>When listening to the CD in the car, you may be surprised to hear rhythm or tonal patterns being echoed from the car seat!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increasingly comfortable in class, your child may develop the confidence to begin improvising, either quietly at your side, or publicly by offering ideas to the teacher.</li><li>Your child may briefly show a consistent tempo in her movements. While this may not yet match the tempo of the song she is hearing, it’s a sign that she’s organizing her sense of rhythm and beat.</li><li>You may notice the happy sound of your child singing spontaneously as he goes about his day—and you may even be able to recognize the song!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Just as your child asks for favorite stories again and again, he may remember and request Music Together songs from previous semesters, perhaps even identifying his favorite songs in the songbooks.</li><li>Your preschooler may now be singing whole songs, including the words, because music learning supports language learning.</li><li>At home your child may delight in making up her own songs, improvising a melody or rhythm. She may enjoy playing “grownup,” tucking you into bed and singing you to sleep with a favorite lullaby.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your child is building musical relationships with friends during Music Together activities.</li><li>Your child may temporarily observe more and participate less in class. He’s noticing that his own singing and moving doesn’t always match what he hears and sees around him. By carefully evaluating what he hears, he learns to adjust and refine his own musical expression.</li><li>By the end of your child’s third year in Music Together, she may be singing in tune or keeping a perfect beat!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your older child may proudly share some of the Music Together songs with his kindergarten teacher—perhaps even all nine Spanish songs!</li><li>Your older child now begins to store songs in her musical memory. This is the foundation for a life-long ability to enjoy and participate in the music of her culture.</li><li>Although your child still needs a playful, non-formal learning environment, he may be showing early signs of musical readiness or interest in piano or violin lessons.</li></ul> <p>CONGRATULATIONS!</p>
<div>Starting Music Together as a 3-4-year-old</div> 	<p>WELCOME TO YOUR MUSIC TOGETHER JOURNEY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Children who are new to the program often prefer to carefully observe in class. At home, however, you will begin to see just how your child transfers the classroom activities into daily life.</li><li>Your child may start singing parts of Music Together songs or repeating sections of rhymes—and asking for the CD!</li><li>You may see your child’s creativity blossom as he experiments with the songs at home in his own unique ways.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your child will now be comfortable with the Music Together routine. She may especially enjoy the musical rituals—the “Hello Song,” the “play-along” instrumental jam session, and the lullaby time.</li><li>Your growing child’s improved balance supports better rhythm development. He may increasingly be able to walk or dance to the beat of the song he’s hearing.</li><li>Your child may talk about the Music Together teacher, incorporate the teacher into her pretend play at home, and be excited to help the teacher in class each week.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your child may enjoy teaching a “Music Together class” at home, leading family members—or an assortment of stuffed animals—in the class routine.</li><li>Your preschooler is singing parts of some songs and the entirety of others. It’s common to hear him singing to his toys, and he may independently put on the CD, following along in his songbook.</li><li>Your child may spontaneously make the connection between an activity in daily life and a related Music Together song, singing a water song in the bath or an animal song while playing with the dog.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your child may make up new songs of his very own at home and may even share them with his teacher.</li><li>Your child’s exposure to the music pages in the songbook now helps her understand that music can be read, just like words.</li><li>Your child may enter a period of participating less in class. She’s a more careful observer and listener, comparing melodies or patterns she’s hearing to her own attempts at musical expression. This important developmental period often comes just before a child “breaks through” and achieves basic music competence.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Now that your child has completed his journey through the Music Together program, he has acquired and stored in memory a rich repertoire of songs, providing a strong foundation for future music learning.</li><li>Your child is now capable of playing with music the way musicians do: improvising, conducting, changing dynamics, tempo, articulation, and phrasing—and even composing!</li><li>Thanks to the wide range of tonalities and meters in the Music Together songs, your child may develop a discerning ear, even distinguishing between major and minor songs or duple and triple rhythm.</li><li>Your child’s music expression is increasingly sophisticated, and she may wish to extend her music learning through formal instrumental or voice study.</li></ul> <p>CONGRATULATIONS!</p>	



# THE PARENT'S EXPERIENCE THROUGH MUSIC TOGETHER®

## First Semester .....

- You and your child share the joy of making music, learning a whole repertoire of songs, movements, and playful activities. At home, you and your child look through the songbook and play with its musical ideas.
- You discover the pleasures of having a CD filled with music that both you and your child know and love.
- As your child responds to your musical play, you understand the importance of your modeling, regardless of your own musical ability.
- You and your child begin to develop musical relationships with other families through ensemble singing and group dancing in class.
- You enjoy sharing your child's delight in his growing relationship with the Music Together teacher—possibly his very first classroom teacher!
- You discover a new place for music in your life: you and your child sing your favorite songs together, and incorporate lullabies into your bedtime routines.



## 2nd–3rd Semesters .....

- You expand your repertoire of songs, movements, and musical activities with new CDs and songbooks.
- You begin to understand how the Music Together philosophy works in daily life, as you observe your child's musical development.
- You may discover your child's preferred learning style: visual, kinesthetic, or auditory. In Music Together, every child's natural style is accepted and appreciated.
- As the friendships from your first class grow deeper, you realize that making music together is a way to form and develop longterm relationships.
- You find that music is becoming a natural way to communicate with your child: you share music activities from class at playtime, sing a song to smooth the way for bedtime or getting dressed, and even make up new verses about things you do around the house.



## 4th–6th Semesters .....

- You feel increasingly comfortable participating in music-making with your child, even improvising silly sounds and coming up with creative verses for songs.
- As your observation skills become more acute, you are beginning to recognize developmental responses and musical milestones in your child.
- You notice a new musical inspiration in yourself: maybe you'll pull out that old instrument from your school years! You may even consider learning to play a little guitar or piano.
- As an experienced participant, you become a role model for other adults, as well as for your child.
- You are thankful to now have several recordings the whole family loves—especially for long car trips!



## 7th Semester and Beyond .....

- Music play is now a regular part of daily life—during playtime, dinnertime, bedtime, or car rides.
- If you have welcomed another child into your life, you enjoy the closeness that comes with attending class together as a family.
- Reflecting back on your child's journey through primary music development, you appreciate the strong music foundation you have provided.
- As you see your child entering elementary school, it may occur to you that you will miss participating in Music Together.
- You may find yourself volunteering to lead a music activity in your child's class—or you may be so interested in early childhood music, you decide to become a Music Together teacher yourself!

