

MUSIC TOGETHER®  
Family Favorites™



MUSIC  
TOGETHER®  
BRINGING HARMONY HOME.™

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\*Traditional material arranged, adapted, or further developed by K. Guilmartin, L. Levinowitz, et al.

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# Making music with your child

Children delight in music and movement. The years between birth and age six are that wonderful time when they are open to all kinds of music: folk tunes, world music, classical, jazz. These are the years when you—as your child’s primary role model—can influence him the most, through your own pleasure in moving and singing, regardless of your own musical ability.

Have you ever noticed how instinctively children try to imitate older siblings and grownups? Imitation is

an important part of how they learn. It’s amazing when you think about it, but often the best way to teach a young child is to do something yourself. Children learn to talk this way, as well as to walk. If you read books, they’ll want to read. If you sing and dance, they will, too.

## **Playing with your child**

When you first play the CD, you might just clap or bounce along with the beat. See how your child responds, and join in with her way of moving. As you become familiar with



the songs, try out some of the suggestions for musical play provided in this booklet. We've offered ideas for small movement activities, dance and large movement, instrument play and improvisation, and making up your own words to songs.

You may be surprised and your musical intelligence "tickled" if you open up to the variety of sounds, moods, tempos, and tunes offered

on this recording. Be curious, be adventurous. Jump out of your routine, explore, and awaken the singer and dancer in you. Your child will be fascinated by your playful response, and you'll get an idea of why families return again and again to Music Together classes. You can read more about Family Classes and the Preschool Program in the back of this book, but for now, turn on the CD and have some fun!

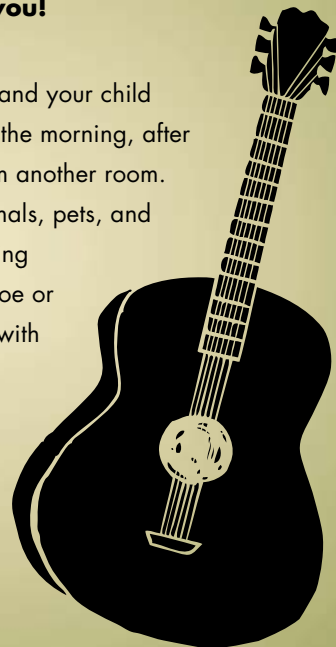


# 1. Hello Song

**Hello everybody, so glad to see you!**

- Children love hearing their name sung, and your child will delight in being greeted by song in the morning, after a nap, or even just when you return from another room. You can also sing "hello" to stuffed animals, pets, and visiting friends and family. If you're feeling silly, try singing "hello" to your left big toe or the lampshade. Children respect adults with a high SQ™ (silly quotient™)!

*"Hello Song" is sung at the beginning of every Music Together class to welcome each child individually. Being publicly acknowledged and welcomed gives a child strong positive reinforcement.*



## 2. Biddy Biddy

**Listen to the steel drum and Latin percussion in this traditional song from Jamaica.**

- This lighthearted little tune is fun to play with. Like all songs without words, it's also great for language development, since it allows the child to play with different phonemes, or the sounds of language. Sing it using made-up words of your own, like "ba-ba" or "doobie," or try animal sounds like "moo" or "meow." You can also sing your child's name to create what will no doubt be a favorite verse.
- When playing with your baby, sing the names of various parts of her body while gently tapping them to the beat: "chinny-chinny-chin-chin," "knee-knee-knee-knee-knee-knee," etc.



## 3. splishing and splashing

**Children delight in splashing, whether getting muddy in a puddle or clean in a bath.**

- It's fun to make small rhythmic movements for the "splishing and splashing" sections of this chant, such as splashing your hands in an imaginary tub, stomping your feet as if splashing in mud, and rubbing your hands as you "wash dishes." Then you can bark and become the family dog, lapping water from the bowl! For children, very few things are as fun as splashing and being silly.



**Note:** This chant gives children the experience of two different kinds of beat, alternating between a two-feel (duple meter) and a three-feel (triple meter).

## 4. Ridin' in the Car

**Let's buckle up and go for a ride!**

- Bounce your child on your lap as you sing this song, or bounce to the beat sitting side-by-side in separate "cars." Let the words inspire movements to go with the song. You can pretend to steer, lean sideways as the car turns, and fall forward and back as you screech to a stop. After you fall asleep in your car, wake up!—and start all over again.
- What else do you do in your car? Make up verses such as "eat, eat, eatin' in the car/yum, yum..." or "sit, sit, sittin' in traffic/oh, no..." Then sing about other things you can ride in: a bus, train, airplane, or tractor.



## 5. STICK TUNE

**Let's all click our sticks today!**



- Try different ways to "click" rhythm sticks, dowels, or wooden spoons. Tap them against each other or tap them on the floor, keeping to the rhythm of the song. Tap the basic beat you feel, then try tapping twice as fast.
- Now put away the sticks and dance! Get down and boogie with your child, enjoying the funky feel of this song. Take your cue from the verses about stamping, clapping, and wiggling, and find various ways to move, such as "Hey, hey, whadd'ya say, let's all run around today!"
- It's easy to make up your own verses to this song by singing about objects or animals your child likes: "...let's all be a train today / choo-choo, choo-choo-choo-choo." Try verses like "let's all take a bath today": you might be surprised by the cooperation a little music inspires!

## 6. She Sells Sea shells

**This soothing melody is lovely at quiet times and bedtime.**

- Enjoy a quiet moment with your child as you sing this song. You can point to the picture of each shell as you sing, then swoop your arm into the air in a gentle arc as you sing about the birds, as if following their flight through the sky.
- With several people, you can create a wonderful musical experience by singing the three parts of this song simultaneously. Each person simply repeats his part while the others repeat theirs. You'll be impressed by how great you sound! The song can also be done as a classic round.

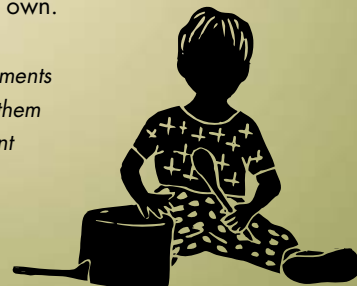


## 7. Playin' in the Kitchen

**Get out the pots and pans for a kitchen jam!**

- Here's a Music Together jam session designed for the potential orchestra hidden in every kitchen: not just pots and pans, but non-breakable plastic bowls, lids, wooden spoons, whisks, spatulas, pie plates, and plastic soda bottles! You can scrape a wooden spoon across an ice-cube tray to make a ratchet sound, fill ketchup squeeze-bottles with dried beans,\* and use bundt pans as gongs. Playin' in the kitchen is a blast!
- The different vocal parts in this song are part of the fun. Sing along with each one as you play—then improvise your own.

**\*Caution:** Make sure to seal homemade instruments securely with tape or non-toxic glue and check them regularly for signs of wear. As with all instrument play, supervise children closely for safety.





## 8. Palo, Palo

**Dance with the conga, dance with the bongos!**



- Children will love dancing around at home in a conga line, moving step-step-STOP. Try adding a small, accented movement at each STOP for emphasis, such as a slight back-kick from the knee: step-step-step-KICK.
- “Palo” means “stick” in Spanish, and the traditional first verse of this song translates roughly: “A little stick—hey, it’s a pretty stick.” Our adaptation adds the following:

*Enero, febrero, marzo, abril, y mayo—January, February, March, April, and May*

*Son los cinco meses primero del año—Are the first five months of the year*

*Baila con la conga—Dance with the conga*

*Baila con los bongos—Dance with the bongos*

*Uno, dos, y tres, quatro, cinco, seis—1, 2, and 3, 4, 5, 6*

*Ri-qui, ti-qui, ti-jin—Spanish nonsense syllables*

## 9. John the Rabbit

**Even beginning singers can have a starring role in this song, playing the rabbit and singing, “Yes, ma’am!”**

- Put on your “bunny ears” by holding your hands up at the back of your head as if you were a rabbit. Bounce slightly at the knee as you sing the song and hop on the beat. Many adults like to hop on just the “yes, ma’am’s,” while children usually hop as fast as possible! Then put on your “bunny tail,” too, by putting your hands behind you—and hop all over again.
- You can sing this song about any animal at all, perhaps using one of your child’s toy animals as a prop: “Oh, Ralph, the dinosaur (yes ma’am)...”





## 10. spin and stop

Here's a song about spinning and moving in circles.

- The syllables or “vocables” of this song imitate the feeling of spinning rapidly, stopping, spinning, and stopping. You can even say or sing the words “spin and stop” as you move. This is how they fit the melody:

**Sp-i-n-n-n**— and **stop!**

**La-da-dee-da-dee-da** **dee** dum dum

- Children love playing a spinning-partner game, in which you spin at the same time and wind up facing each other every time you stop. Spin in front of a mirror with a baby, holding her snugly against your chest, facing out, so that each time you stop the baby meets her reflection.



## 11. Mississippi Cats

Hey, who's that? A Mississippi cat!

- You don't have to be a jazz singer to make up scat sounds! Listen to the way the vocalists on the CD play with different syllables or “vocables,” such as “ba,” “dooba,” “ding,” and “dang” to make up catchy rhythmic phrases. You can do this, too. Try whisper-scatting in your child's ear: she'll love this rhythmic little “secret.”
- This is a great song for drumming, too, with real or pretend drums. Experiment with hand-drumming—you can use both hands together, use alternate hands, or drum just with fingertips. Try drumming both the bigger, slow beats, and the smaller, faster beats. You can also tap: on your lap, on your child's back, on the floor, on the coffee table—anything can be a drum!



## 12. One Little OWL

### What other animals could sit in the old oak tree?

- Create “owl eyes” by making circles with your thumbs and index fingers, peering through them as you start to sing this song. Continue with movements for the other animals, such as holding your hands in front of you like a squirrel with a nut, flapping your crow-wing arms, or rubbing your face the way a cat paws his whiskers. Then have even more fun thinking up other animals to go in the tree and making up sounds and movements for them. (“One little monkey said, ‘Eee-eee-eee!’”) Children are creative and not bound by logic, so be prepared to put dinosaurs and tractors in your tree, too!



## 13. Goin' for Coffee

### Get your instrument and play along!

- A high point of Music Together class is the jam session, or “play-along.” Everyone chooses an instrument and plays it however they wish: an infant may mouth a maraca, a toddler might explore the tambourine’s potential as a hat, while an adult might free her inner rock star playing the drum. This open experimentation is an important part of the way children learn. At home, why not get out the guitar or pull that old clarinet out of the closet? You can also use pots and pans to play along with, of course, or visit Music Together’s website for the kind of quality child-friendly instruments found in classroom play-along baskets all over the world.
- The easy-going, jazzy beat of “Goin’ for Coffee” makes it a great dance tune, too!



## 14. OBWisaNa

**Dance and sing to the traditional sound of the kalimba, or thumb-piano.**



- The two phrases in this song can seem like a musical conversation. Try singing the first half of the melody with an older child or another adult singing the second half in response. Experiment with trading shorter phrases, too. Even simple play like this helps children absorb one of the ways in which music is organized.
- Children in Ghana play a stone-passing game while they sing this song. (You can try the game with any small object, such as a bean bag or a Music Together egg shaker.) Players pass the stone on each big beat; the game gets faster—and sillier!—when players choose to pass on the small beats. First try clapping these beats or tapping them on your knees; then see if you can keep the beat during the passing game:

Big beat: **Ob**-wi-sa-na **sa**-na-na, **Ob**-wi-sa-na **sa**...etc.

Smaller beat: **Ob**-wi-**sa**-na **sa**-na-na, **Ob**-wi-**sa**-na **sa**...etc.

## 15. i've been WORKING on the Railroad

**Here's the Music Together® version of a song that generations have loved.**

- You can sing along with this classic song, clapping the beat or tapping it on your thighs. See if you can imitate the sound of the train whistle!
- It's fun to move to this song, perhaps going around the room in a line like railroad cars. You can act out the whistle blowing, the captain shouting, and Dinah blowing her horn. As you sing along at the end, try these movements: waggle a finger at whoever's in the kitchen with Dinah; pretend to fiddle; and get out an imaginary hammer or shovel and work "all the live-long day" to lay that train track.



## 16. Dancing With Teddy

**Teddy bears—and bunnies and dinosaurs—just love to waltz.**

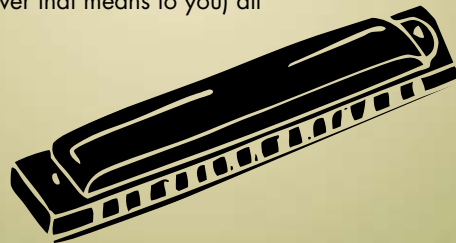
- This song celebrates the special bond children often have with their favorite stuffed animal (or action-figure toy!). Hold your child as you waltz—or each of you can dance with a fuzzy friend as a partner. While your child may not be able to execute the **left**-right-left, **right**-left-right steps of the waltz, he will be absorbing that three-feel underlying the music. Move through the room, twirl around gently, lift your partner “high in the sky,” then hold the loved one close as the song comes to an end.



## 17. Allee Galloo

**Wheeee!**

- The fun of this song is in the build-up, or *crescendo*, from small to big and wailin’. Try bouncing your child on your lap as you sing, starting very quietly and getting progressively more energetic until you fall backward on “Wheeee!” When standing up, you can tip-toe slowly and dramatically toward your child, then sweep her up into the air on “Wheeee!” Of course, you can just put on the rock ‘n’ roll style recording and “allee galloo” (whatever that means to you) all around the room.



## 18. May ALL CHILDREN

**Written to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of UNICEF, this song hopes for peace for all the children in the world.**

- There's nothing quite like a lullaby to bring even the busiest day to a quiet close. Children find bedtime rituals comforting, and a song can be especially soothing. Don't worry; your child won't mind whether you're an excellent singer or not, and you'll both appreciate the special closeness a lullaby can bring.

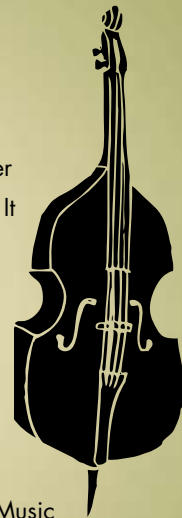
- A choral arrangement of "May All Children" is available on the Music Together website, where you can also read about the history of this song and see a list of schools, church groups, and choruses which have performed it in different settings around the world.



## 19. GOODBYE, SO LONG, FAREWELL

**We'll see you soon again, my friends!**

- This lilting waltz is sung at the end of every Music Together class, with each child getting his own special "goodbye." It really means "'til next time," and between classes families can listen to the recordings they receive each semester, look at the accompanying songbook, and make music together at home and in the car. Our wish, always, is to inspire family music-making extending beyond the classroom into daily life.
- We hope you've enjoyed this chance to celebrate a little Music Together with your own family—keep singin' and dancin'!



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Visit our website to find a Music Together class near you or to learn about bringing Music Together classes to your community: [MUSICTOGETHER.COM](http://MUSICTOGETHER.COM)

# making MUSIC TOgetHER®

*"Now we are musical all the time. Making music saturates everything we do."  
—Music Together Parent*

In the mid-1980s, Music Together founder/director Kenneth K. Guilmar-tin, a composer, wanted to create a way for children to develop music skills as naturally and joyfully as they learn to talk. He worked with music education researcher Lili M. Levinowitz, Ph.D., to develop Music Together, a pioneering music and movement program introduced to the public in 1987. This innovative program is based on the philosophy that all children are musical, that they can achieve basic music competence, that the modeling of

parents and caregivers is essential to the child's music learning, and that this learning is best accomplished in a non-formal, developmentally appropriate setting. The curriculum includes a mix of original songs and traditional tunes from the folk, jazz, and world-music traditions.

## **Music Together Family Classes**

Each class offers a dozen songs and rhythmic rhymes, including finger-plays, small and large movement experiences, and instrument play. By presenting a rich tonal and rhythmic





mix, as well as a range of musical styles from lyrical to blues, folk to boogie, Music Together provides children a wide music experience to stimulate and support their growing music skills and understanding.

The mixed-age setting of the Family Class enables siblings to attend together and also allows children to freely participate at their own level. Adults often happily report that their own music ability has grown—thanks to the guidance of a trained Music Together teacher—in this easy, engaging environment.

### **Music Together Preschool**

This groundbreaking program enhances children's musical growth

and supports preschool teachers in becoming confident music-making role models. The Music Together specialist works with classroom teachers, showing them how to weave music into the school day and make it an integrated part of classroom life.

Music flows into family life, too, through the Music Together recordings and songbooks the children bring home. Parents become involved with their child's music education, and schools report that having a shared repertoire of songs creates a remarkable sense of community among teachers, children, and parents in the Music Together Preschool program.





## Recordings and songbooks

Because bringing music-making beyond the classroom and into the home is such an integral part of the Music Together program, home materials have been provided from the very beginning. Every semester, families receive a recording and an accompanying illustrated songbook, filled with ideas that they can try at home. Music Together's nine song collections are unique in the field, not only for their wide variety of tonalities and meters, but for their outstanding musical arrangements which appeal to grownups and children alike.

## Celebrating community

Music has the power to create deep bonds among people—within families, communities, and cultures. The worldwide network of Music Together teachers is dedicated to bringing the joy of family music to neighborhoods everywhere. We hope you and your child enjoy singing and dancing along with these family favorites—and that you keep making music long after the recording ends!

*"It's so much fun! I've recommended this class to everybody I know who has a child." —Music Together Parent*

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Visit [MUSICTOGETHER.COM](https://www.musictogether.com) to see video clips of Music Together classes, read about the research behind the program, purchase instruments, and find a class near you.

