

# **Musical Activities:** **A Foundation for Literacy**



## **Increasing Early Learning Opportunities Training Module**

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# Presented by Project SEED

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# What we know about Music and Learning...



- Music is an engaging and effective way of grasping children's attention and fostering their learning. *Building Literacy with Love, 2005*
- Music is a vital ingredient in early childhood experiences because young children are open to hearing, feeling, making, and moving to music. Musical experiences can be described as another language through which young children learn about themselves, their world and others. *Educating Young Children, High/Scope Research Foundation, 1995*

# The Magic of Music

The music masters familiarizes children's minds with rhythms and melodies, thus making them more civilized, more balanced, better adjusted in themselves, and more capable in whatever they say or do, for rhythm and harmony are essential to the whole of life.

— Plato (428-348 BC)

# You don't have to be a music master-

- Children are only focused on having fun and sharing experiences with you.
- Children do not judge your singing abilities.
- Music is not limited to singing-get creative!
  - Dance (they do not judge that either)
  - Play with sounds
- There is no right or wrong way to be musical.
- You only need to increase your awareness of musical opportunities and understanding of how they benefit children.



# Music helps to reinforce many developing skills.

## Music helps:

- build relationships by helping children make new friends
- is an avenue of communicating feelings
- to comfort children (and adults!) and helps children feel comfortable in group settings
- to develop a sense of individuality
- to stimulate creativity
- with encouraging coordination
- in facilitating social skills
- increase attending skills
- to develop both fine and large muscle skills
- And...

(Building Literacy with Love,2005; Zero to Three, 2002; The Creative Curriculum, 2000)

# Music fosters Language and Literacy Development by:



- exposing children to repetition of activities that reinforces learning new skills
- teaching recognition of patterns that help in anticipating what is to come
- encouraging children to follow directions
- helping children to recognize volume and tone
- teaching that movements communicate messages
- allowing children to explore cause and effect
- building vocabulary through stories and rhymes
- encouraging children to express themselves
- helping children develop phonemic awareness skills (by hearing and discriminating sounds of language)
- building listening skills
- connecting songs with symbols and written words

(Building Literacy with Love,2005; Zero to Three, 2002; The Creative Curriculum, 2000)



**Musical  
experiences  
are  
all around us!**

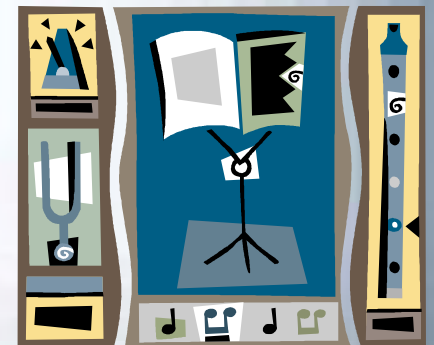
# Get in Tune...



- Here is a few pointers:
  - Create space for musical experiences
  - Allow for repetition
  - Recognize the importance of Timing
  - Select appropriate materials
  - Observe the children's interests
  - Provide a variety of experiences
  - Promote learning

# Music throughout your day

- Everyday activities and routines
- Offer opportunities for experiences associated with themes or concepts
- Discover and listen for new musical experiences



There are different ways of engaging ALL children in musical experiences

From listening to sounds and playing with volume, to feeling vibrations and actively receiving assistance with dancing, manipulating instruments and props, all children can benefit from exposure to music!

Zero to Three, 2002

Project SEED, 2005

# “Music creates order out of chaos”

Author Unknown



Let it be one of the most valuable tools  
in your bag of tricks...

“There is something special about music that makes learning about the world around us easier.” Zero to Three, 2002



Enjoy your experiences  
and  
thank you for coming today!