

GRADE 1 MUSIC CURRICULUM

Grade Level Focus:

Music Is All Around Us

How does music bring people together?

Why do people enjoy making music together?

Developmental Stage

Children in kindergarten and first grade are still in **Piaget's Pre-operational Stage (2-7 Years)**. They start to use symbols such as language to represent objects. For instance, the child understands the word "apple" although a real apple is not seen. However, the Pre-operational child still learns from concrete evidence while adults can learn in abstract way. The Pre-operational child is also unaware of another person's perspective. They exhibit egocentric thought and language.

Children in the pre-operational stage are still learning to distinguish fantasy from reality and are highly engaged in fantasy play. They can be observed organizing comprehension of their environment through role-playing.

Movement

- * Stands on one foot for 10 seconds or longer
- * Hops, somersaults
- * Swings, climbs
- * May be able to skip

Hand and Finger Skills

- * Copies triangle and other geometric patterns
- * Draws person with body
- * Prints some letters
- * Dresses and undresses without assistance
- * Uses fork, spoon and (sometimes) a table knife
- * Usually cares for own toilet needs

Language

- * Recalls part of a story
- * Speaks sentences of more than five words
- * Uses future tense
- * Tells longer stories
- * Says name and address

Cognitive Milestones

- * Can count 10 or more objects
- * Correctly names at least four colors
- * Better understands the concept of time
- * Knows about things used every day in the home (money, food, appliances)

Social

- * Wants to please friends
- * Wants to be like her friends

- * More likely to agree to rules
- * Likes to sing, dance and act
- * Shows more independence and may even visit a next-door neighbor by herself

Emotional Milestones

- * Aware of gender differences
- * Learning to distinguish fantasy from reality
- * Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative

Practices we use in music activities:

- * Singing and playing instruments
- * Using body movement to show steady beat/rhythm, loud/soft, high/low, fast/slow
- * Learning to follow directions
- * Listening to music
- * Distinguishing differences in voices, pitches, rhythms, styles, tempos
- * Learning music terminology
- * Learning rules for games