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

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<th>Emotional Milestones</th>
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| * Aware of gender differences  
| * Learning to distinguish fantasy from reality  
| * Sometimes demanding, sometimes eagerly cooperative |

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<th>Practices we use in music activities:</th>
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| * 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 |