

Music Together® Supports the IB Primary Years Programme

Music Together is rooted in a child-centered, research-based, developmentally appropriate approach to early childhood music education that involves children's primary caregivers in their music development journey. With the mission to make the world a better place by making it more musical, Music Together also seeks to build community through music. The Music Together approach to education positions children as agents of their own learning, and supports learning through participatory and active music experiences that support the development of the whole child.

Music Together aligns with and supports the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) for children (ages 3–5) in the following ways:

Music Together fosters children's intercultural understanding and respect.

Music Together's music represents a diverse range of music traditions, styles, cultures, and genres that help to foster children's international-mindedness. All decisions regarding the songs chosen as a part of Music Together's offerings are informed by recommendations, guidance, and counsel from a rotating panel of experts in ethnomusicology, music history, music education, and culture. These experts provide information and guidance on the appropriateness of songs for families in a diverse, global community.

Music Together supports all 10 IB learner profile attributes.

Inquirers

- Activities naturally support children's inquiry skills and their curiosity.
- When integrated with other subjects, music can also enhance enthusiasm and love of learning, in addition to helping children to become life-long music-makers.

Knowledgeable

- Many songs and chants support concept and content knowledge.

Thinkers

- Songs and chants with word, verse, and movement variation opportunities support critical and creative thinking skills.

Communicators

- Songs and chants with word, verse, and movement variation opportunities support one's own creative expression and respect for others' ideas.

Principled

- Research¹ has shown that group music-making (like in Music Together classes) supports group cohesion, cooperation, and prosocial behavior.

Open-minded

- Music Together is committed to including music from other cultures and traditions, and to authentically and accurately present that music in ways that support cultural appreciation and respect.

Caring

- Music Together is committed to including music from other cultures and traditions, and to authentically and accurately present that music in ways that support cultural appreciation and respect.
- Research² has shown that group music-making (like in Music Together classes) supports increased empathy among preschool children.

¹Kirschner, S. & M. Tomasello. (2009). Joint drumming: Social context facilitates synchronization in preschool children. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 102, pp. 299-314.

²Kirschner & Tomasello. (2009)

Risk-takers

- Songs and chants with word, verse, and movement variation opportunities support children's comfort and determination with trying new things and putting themselves in challenging situations (e.g., sharing with the group).

Balanced

- Music and movement activities simultaneously nurture and develop a child's mind, body, and spirit.

Reflective

- Music Together activities engage children's natural learning cycle of play, discovery, reflection, repetition, and mastery.

Music Together supports children's developing Approaches to Learning.

- **Thinking Skills:** Activities with word substitution, verse variation, and movement variation opportunities support children's creative thinking skills.
- **Research Skills:** Songs and rhythmic chants in different meters, as well as Music Together's inclusion of rhythm and tonal patterns, provide opportunities for comparing and contrasting.
- **Communication Skills:** Participatory music experiences with substitution and variation opportunities support the development of active listening skills.
- **Social Skills:** Group music-making supports children's social skill development.
- **Self-management skills:** Active music-making can support children's executive function skills, including working memory, cognitive flexibility, and inhibitory control, all of which are important to self-management.