

What Children Learn From Music and Movement

Both music and movement have natural connections to the content areas.

Literacy

Expand children's **vocabulary and language** as you introduce new words, such as *banjo*, *waterspout*, *weasel*, or *stream*, in a song. Talk about what the words mean and act them out.

Strengthen their **phonological awareness** by singing songs that are full of rhymes and repetition.

Help children gain an **understanding of books and other texts** by reading story songs (e.g., "Down by the Bay" by Raffi).

Facilitate children's **knowledge of print** and understanding of **letters and words** by writing songs on a chart so they can follow along as they sing or listen.

Encourage children's **comprehension** skills by dramatizing a story using body movements.

Mathematics

Help children learn **number concepts** by singing number songs, rhymes, and chants.

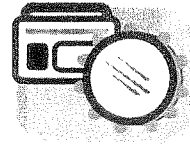
Strengthen children's ability to recognize **patterns and relationships** by clapping and repeating rhythmic patterns to music.

Explore **geometry** by marching around a circle. Develop children's **spatial sense** by having them move around, in, out, through, or hold a streamer in different positions—above, below, high, or low.

Teach concepts of **measurement**, especially time, as you or the children in your group move quickly and slowly, or hold a note for a long time. Make comparisons in movement activities, for instance, by taking long steps, short steps, or making yourself as tiny as a bug and as big as a giant.

Science

Explore **physical science** by experimenting with rhythm instruments or found objects to make sounds. Encourage children to find ways of making high and low sounds, loud and soft sounds.



Investigate the **earth and environment** by creating musical instruments from objects found in nature. Use streamers during movement activities to see how things move in the wind.

Social Studies

Learn about **spaces and geography** as children participate in movement activities (e.g., go forward, backward, to the side).

Teach about **people and how they live** by inviting a professional musician or dancer to your class. Draw children's attention to the part music and dance play in people's lives. Explore music and dance from other cultures.

Enhance an understanding of **people and the environment** by creating musical instruments from recyclable materials.

Help children to develop an appreciation of **people and the past** by introducing music and movement from different eras—ragtime, blues, waltz, and rock and roll. Show children dances that were popular when you were growing up.

The Arts

Introduce **dance** by having children move in different ways to music. Play different types of music and explore movements that go with each.

Explore **music** by providing opportunities to listen to and appreciate a variety of musical styles. Provide musical instruments for creative self-expression. Include music throughout the day so children can join in group singing.

Introduce children to **drama** by providing props to re-enact familiar stories. Read stories to children that lend themselves to creative dramatics.

Technology

Help children develop an **awareness of technology** by learning how different instruments make sounds. Learn from a local musician how sounds can be changed or distorted using technology such as a mixer on an electronic keyboard or how the sounds of an electric guitar and an acoustic guitar are different.

Teach children to learn **basic operations and concepts** of technology by having them operate a tape recorder or CD player and using the on/off, volume, forward, reverse, and pause buttons. Navigate through software games that include musical components, such as *Thinkin' Things I* by Edmark.

Learn about **people and technology** by observing all the ways a musician or technician creates sound.