



MUSIC

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FOR FAMILIES

You are your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support music learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!

KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Singing and movement are the heart of the kindergarten music curriculum. Activities in music should give students opportunities to practice and learn carefully selected, age-appropriate songs that reflect the background and experiences of the entire class. Encourage your child to sing along with you, and make sure singing is fun. Your child's singing voice is still developing, so be positive and enthusiastic. Give your child opportunities to listen to several kinds of age-appropriate music (pop, classical, rock, hip-hop, country, etc.) and find songs like "The Wheels on the Bus" and "Down by the Bay" to sing together.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Practice their singing voice.
- Understand musical comparisons, such as loud/quiet, fast/slow, high/low, etc.
- Keep a steady beat by clapping, patting or stepping to the beat.
- Begin to learn about musical sounds (timbre), phrase, form and different meters (skipping/marching).
- Work cooperatively, moving and singing with partners and a large group.

What to do at home:

- Ask your child to tell you about the songs they are learning at school.
- Ask your child's music teacher to suggest songs to sing at home.
- Listen to music together in the car and at home.
- Ask your student questions about music, such as "Do you think this song is fast or slow?" and "Do you like this song?"
- Clap, pat or move to the beat of a song. Dance together!
- Encourage your child to sing and dance at home with the family as the audience. Clap for each performance.
- Sing lullabies together to a baby, toy, doll or pet.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's musical curiosity with questions like these:

- When you hear this song, what do you like about it? If you don't like it, why not?
- What voices and instruments do you hear?

If your child seems to have an interest in music, consider researching musical artists, then listening to them or watching their videos together.

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's musical communication skills with questions like these:

- What do you think this song is about?
- How do you know? Did the words in the song tell you? Or was it the speed of the music or the instruments used?

Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge and learning. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect music with physical activity. Put on a popular song and dance with your child or dance to YouTube videos together.
- Connect music with writing by changing words to a song or inventing new verses. An easy song to start with is "Down by the Bay." Change the animals and rhyming words as you sing the song.
- Share music from your childhood or teen years. Ask your child what they think of the music. Depending on the song, talk about the musical history of the time (for example, the grunge era or early hip-hop) or events that were happening in the nation (for example, patriotic country songs from the early 2000s).

Join the conversation!

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