

The Cycle of Seasons

Summer

**MUSIK
GARTEN®**



Music for Singing, Dancing and Listening

The Cycle of Seasons Parent Book

Summer

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Produced by Music Matters

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Dear Parents,

Summer is surely the most welcome of seasons, a time to put on a straw hat and sandals, and head outdoors. Walk through the early morning dewy grass to enjoy nature's own musical choristers and the sweet perfume of clean fresh air.

Summer is sometimes depicted as a time when the "livin' is easy." But on closer scrutiny we observe that summer is the busiest season in the natural world of plants and animals. The warmth of summer is a motor that revs up all life, and long daylight hours leave more time for exploration by the children.

Summer is family time. Each of our Musikgarten classes involves the children in music and movement activities with a nature theme. Classtime is the teacher's opportunity to plant seeds and to share ideas with you and your child. At home your active participation with your child nurtures the seeds and helps them to grow. By playing musically with your child you insure the benefit of your investment of time and money in music class.

Make Music Every Day!

Move – this is your child's favorite way of being and his/her best way of learning. You will find many kinds of movement games in this collection, including recorded movement stories such as *Little Rabbit* and *Frogs and Worms*. These stories bring you and your child a special challenge, learning to listen to the musical realization of a story, and then responding to it through movement.

Listen – this is perhaps the most important skill you can help your child refine. The listening games with the animal cards will draw your child's attention immediately. Use them as a springboard for starting to listen very carefully outdoors to the animal voices in the environment. The recorded movement stories mentioned above give the opportunity for considerable growth, as they require the combination of listening and moving.

Sing – you have chosen a music program for your child at the most important point in his/her life, during the early childhood years. Sing often for your child, and in time s/he will join you in singing. Your child started talking by first

repeating syllables, then speaking single words and gradually putting a few words together in sentences; s/he will come to singing in a similar manner. There are many songs such as *The Fishpole Song* and *When I Was a Baby* which invite your child to be an active part of the song by responding with a few words. Most of all, your child needs your singing companionship to become a singer.

Play – this wonderful word of childhood has a double meaning for us: musical play in general and playing instruments specifically. Homemade instruments such as plastic jar shakers, cooking pot drums and wooden spoon rhythm sticks are wonderful musical implements for children. Consider also purchasing a drum for your child. We recommend playing the drum with your hands, not a mallet. This way the child is developing fine motor skills, which are an excellent preparation for instrumental lessons. Talk with your music teacher about buying the Musikgarten wooden drum with the natural skin head.

Most importantly, **make music every day**. Seize every opportunity to add a song to what you are already doing.

Go Outdoors and Explore Together

Summer is a sensuous season when all creatures great and small are busy. Summer offers wonderful ways to spend time observing robin parenting, watching caterpillars chewing and growing, or trying to catch a grasshopper! Tread softly and freeze on the spot, then you will be able to observe nature's delights.

The sounds of nature's music fill the air with animal voices and sudden thunder showers. The fragrance of blooms together with the infinite variety of flower colors and shapes visited by equally colorful butterflies intoxicate the senses. For children summer brings sweet memories, when they can stay up late to catch a glimpse of starlight or sit around the campfire toasting marshmallows while listening to the night voices of crickets and other mysterious sounds in the dark.

Add these suggestions to your own ideas for summer living outdoors:

- Visit your park; take frequent short walks to look and listen. Explore the environs; seek out your own special place to enjoy a moment of quiet together.
- Enjoy a picnic. Let your child be part of the planning and preparation for the picnic, collecting twigs for the firepit or serving the family with the special treats s/he has made.
- Let story telling and toasting marshmallows round out a perfect day in the open air. Don't forget to sing along!
- On a hot day prepare fresh lemonade together for everyone.
- Water always fascinates children. Swimming, fishing, canoeing and water play will delight your child; make up new games.
- Visit local ponds and marshes to watch insects and frogs. If you both *freeze* on the spot, you will have the thrill to see them up close.
- You may be lucky enough to watch goslings and ducklings learning to find their own food. Take something along to feed them.
- Make and sail paper boats on the pond or little creeks.
- Talk about water safety rules and be sure that you are a good model. Teach your child how to put on a life jacket.
- Set up a wading pool or an opportunity to play with a garden hose.
- Go barefoot.
- Watch clouds.
- Show your child how to cut and arrange flowers.
- Hang a simple swing from a tree limb. It is so much more inviting than a concrete playground setting.
- Encourage playing with a large ball and skipping ropes.
- Make a simple kite from a kit. Flying kites gives the child a new sense of playing with the wind. It is an ancient art.
- A nighttime stroll with a flashlight uncovers a whole new cast of characters. You may even find the night singer in the grass.
- New senses are awakened in the darkness. Listen to frogs, the sounds of twigs cracking and leaves crunching underfoot.
- Take your child on a camp-out or overnight together in a tree-house.

Insects are fascinating creatures, and most are plentiful with the exception of butterflies. If you wish your child to develop a caring attitude toward living beings, you are the first and best model. Read good illustrated books about nature's non-human creatures, and inform yourself and your child about them.

- Bees and wasps should not be disturbed.
- Check out a good spot to observe ants. Try not to disturb their activity. What are the ants doing at that breakneck speed?
- If you catch a grasshopper or cricket, be sure to release it again as soon as possible.
- Do not handle a hairy caterpillar with bare hands; coax them onto a twig or leaf for observation.

Every creature you and your child discover and enjoy is part of Nature's grand design, so take pleasure in watching and put everything back as you found it.

Enjoy summer where the action is—in the natural environment. Nature offers wonderful experiences to children if they are fortunate to have parents and family members as partners, taking every opportunity to be outdoors. With you beside him/her, both of you will enjoy the season to its fullest.

The arts, we are told, are the glorification of the five senses we are born with, our windows onto the universe. Children know this in their own inimitable way. In summer, the music and movement of nature create a multi-sensory tapestry to nourish the sense of wonder with which all young humans are blessed.

Lorna Heyge, Audrey Sillick

Jim Along Josie

Track 1

Hey jim a - long, jim a - long Jo - sie, Hey jim a - long,
 jim a - long Jo. Hey jim a - long,
 jim a - long Jo - sie, Hey jim a - long, jim a - long Jo.

You and your child can add all kinds of actions to this sprightly song from Oklahoma. Listen for the penny whistle in the recording!

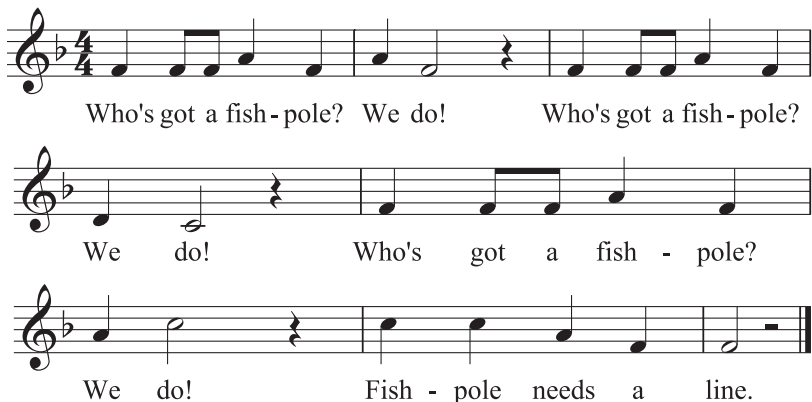
Tap the beat on your knees and accompany yourself on rhythm sticks, jingles, rattles or drums. What other actions can you think of? Consider the following:

Hey, clap along, clap along Josie, ...
 Hey, rub along, rub along Josie, ...
 Hey, walk along, walk along Josie, ...

Recording: Children's Choir, Penny Whistle, Piano

The Fishpole Song

Track 2



Who's got a fish - pole? We do! Who's got a fish - pole?

We do! Who's got a fish - pole?

We do! Fish - pole needs a line.

- 2 Who's got a fish line? We do! ...
Fish line needs a hook.
- 3 Who's got a fish hook? We do! ...
Fish hook needs some bait.
- 4 Who's got a cricket? We do! ...
Cricket catch a fish.
- 5 Who caught a fish now? We did! ...
Let's go eat that fish!

Mime each one of the actions: finding and holding a fishpole, tying on some fish line, putting the hook on the line very carefully, and then putting bait on the hook. Or, make a simple fishpole out of a stick with a string attached, shaping a paper clip to be the fish hook. Don't forget to enjoy the feast afterwards!

Seek an opportunity to fish or observe fish this summer! It is a wonderful way to enjoy the quiet and serenity of the outdoors.

Recording: Soprano, Children's Choir, Guitar, Piano

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