



## Family Music for Toddlers – Semester 2, Week 7 to 9

Dear Teachers,

On to our next three lesson suggestions:

### Week 7

*Five Little Birds* is a fun finger play that needs a lot of expressiveness. “Fly” your fingers of one hand around the room and ask the children to “fly” their fingers as well. At least encourage the parents to copy you. In a voice filled with lament cry, “Five little birds without any home”.... And swoop your fingers all around. Then create five, unmoving trees with your other hand and swoop your fingers around them. Interleave your fingers as you continue, “Come build your nests in our branches tall” and finish with a calm voice, “we’ll rock you to and fro”. I usually follow with the lullaby, *Sleep, My Baby*.

Alternatively, you can encourage a rocking motion as you repeat the last line. To see me teach this particular finger play, go my blog entry, <http://www.musikgarten.org/teacherblog/the-magic-of-finger-plays/#comment-1913>

There are so many opportunities to sing bird songs, and *The Robin* song is so lovely. Often parents will mention this song as a favorite. Remember to smile as you sing “Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!” Even the shyest children will warble into my mike if I move quickly around the room looking for a response.

*The Frog and the Robin* story can be as long or as short a story depending upon the children. The shortest has been, “Look, look up in the tree. I see a Robin Looking at me. Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up! Look, look down in the pond. I see a frog jumping around. Jumping, jumping, jumping around!” You can then add more activities as you repeat this story in later weeks. I love to look up “high” for Robin in the tree and search “low” for Frog in the pond. Both animals will be explored further in Cycle of Seasons and in Music Makers: at Home in the World.

*The Workshop* is a basic stick activity that I often repeat whenever sticks are taken out. This activity is repeated in Music Makers: At home in the World. I have had my seven year olds ask for this activity in keyboards.

### Week 8

*Allee Galloo* is another all time favorite that can be repeated every time scarves are brought out. For younger toddlers I request that parents lift their child on the “WHEEEE” a few times before substituting the scarf. This also returns in Cycles and Music Makers: At Home in the World. The children love to “catch” the scarf with their head or their shoulder or their foot. Such fun.



*Dance, Thumbkin, Dance* is a light-hearted finger play. I always enjoy changing the words in the final verse to say, Dance, Children Dance! Dance Children Dance! And we all get up and start to dance as we sing. This then works well if the next activity is a dance. Here is a nice transition activity than can be repeated in other classes.

### **Week 9**

*Let's Do It All Together* is one of those activities that are very satisfying to the children. Be sure to chant it slowly and expressively.

*Pop Goes the Weasel* is a closing circle game. I like to start it on the floor, quietly singing the first two lines and then slow down as I reach the "POP" and encourage the parents to lift their child into the air. Then we get up and do a circle game, slowly going around in anticipation of the pop. The pop goes to the floor as we all collapse in glee. You can also use this activity with scarves, and I have done it with hoops and the pop can be jumping into the hoop. I bet you can think of other creative ways to use this classic.

Happy Teaching,  
Ellen