



Family Music for Toddlers – Semester 1, Week 7 to 10

Dear Teachers,

Let's dig into the next 4 lesson suggestions:

Week 7

The Soup is Hot! – I love to imagine having a large pot in front of me. I am adding all sorts of vegetables, and I ask the children what else I can put in my pot. All sorts of odd things may join your vegetables! We always chop whatever is suggested. I use the listening time activity to help with this story. Then I wait for the soup to cook, and we make a cake while singing *Pat-a-Cake* and *Hot Cross Buns*. By the end of this lesson I am totally ready for a trip to a bakery.

Week 8

Again, not many new additions, but don't worry. Children delight in repetition, and here you can make another soup and buns. Make sure you work out that morning.

Going to Boston - When I hand out hoops I set the ground rules for the adults. I insist they stay close to their child and look ahead for any possible collisions. Most toddlers do not wish to share their hoop. Hey, that's fine. Just let the parents know. I enjoy modeling my bear crawling through the hoop. Some children will crawl, some will try to walk through the hoop and some will refuse. After a few weeks of hoops, even the most reluctant will enjoy a foray through a hoop or two. I love to compare our hoop tunnel (which is when inevitably the adults will line up the hoops and have the children crawl through all the hoops) to the Big Dig in Boston.

Week 9

Ah yes, a change of focus. Notice we have activities surrounding horses. What fun! In *Horsey, Horsey*, enjoy the alternating meter from duple to triple. Sometimes I start with a duple chant like, "Trotting, trotting, off we go!" and then begin singing the song. Then I like to change the motion for the triple part and chant, "Giddy up, giddy, up" while rocking my bear from side to side.

Week 10

Show Me is a call-and-respond song. I like to begin by silently tapping a part of my body. Then I quietly add the name as I tap. Then I say, "parents, echo me" and I sing the first line while tapping the part. At first the parents may feel uncomfortable singing without your help. Please give them positive encouragement. The question of singing in class may come up at this point. Many parents will not sing in class. I want the class to be a safe place for singing, so I encourage EVERY parent to at least croak along. I remind them that their children love their voice, and they adore you when you sing.

Bells, bells, bells. *Listen for Bells* is one of the first pieces the children learn to play in the keyboard class, and I mention this fact to my parents. When playing and sharing the resonator bars, follow the same ritual you set up for your drum sharing.



Happy teaching,

Ellen Johansen

P.S. Have you started sending out Parent education emails? Send your parent Education Enews NOW!

Go to "Teacher Resources" at the Musikgarten Website and download the Parent Education Emails for Toddler Classes.

Pull out the first section (I like to date the section I sent in the main document) and send it to your toddler families from your email account. I use my Gmail account: I make a contact list including the emails of everyone registered in my toddler classes and send out the email to this list weekly. I use BCC for the email addresses so I am NOT sharing the addresses (some families prefer this) and send the list to myself so I have a reminder of what I have sent. These go directly to a folder in my Gmail account. I set my calendar to remind me to do this act every Monday morning.

It's OK if you are a few weeks late.

Our next Enews will focus on keeping parents on board through the holidays. **Don't forget to have people sign up for the second semester before the end of this month. Neither your parents nor you need anything extra to deal with in December and you want to get their commitment before breaking for the holidays!**

Happy teaching,

Ellen Johansen