

ABC Full Curricula Descriptions

Laugh & Learn (2 - 4 years old)

(1) Animals A-Dancing

I can move my body in many different ways. My voice can make many different sounds. The Animals A-Dancing Home Kit includes a Family Activity Guide and Home CD. The Family Guide details what a child learned in the classroom, suggests home activities to continue the learning, has a game where parent and child can identify various animal footprints, and includes Frog Went A-Dancing, the story of a frog who asks a variety of animals if they know a dancing song. He finally finds the song for him from his mother. The Home CD includes all the songs from the class and a narration of Frog Went A-Dancing.

(2) Around the Farm

Tap, tap, tap—tap, tap, tap. Repeat that pattern on the kitchen table and see how naturally your child copies your rhythm! Young children can quickly and happily nurture a sense of rhythm with simple instruments, such as rhythm sticks, and that will translate into developing their internal sense of steady beat, helping them as they develop in movement, language, and even in mathematics! Around the Farm will keep your child tapping with pleasure as she explores the sights, sounds, and rhythms she might find around a farm! *(A pair of Rhythm Sticks)*

(3) Carnival of Music

Children are compulsive music makers. They hum in the bathtub, sing along with the radio in the car, and love the opportunity to use wooden spoons and pots from the kitchen as drums. That's why they will absolutely love Carnival of Music. In class, your child will explore and play various musical instruments. Your child will develop comfort with instruments and his ability to play them, increasing his likelihood of playing instruments as he gets older. *(A piece of Egg-shaker)*

(4) Down On the Ground

This month in class we'll take a Listening Walk. In class and at home, you can read about a girl who takes a silent walk with her father and listens for sounds along the way. When you play the music on your CD, share the activities in your Literature magazine, and take a listening walk of your own at home, you'll help your child learn to love to observe while tuning critical listening and comprehension skills.

(5) Home Sweet Home

Your child learns best at home. We'll use this nurturing theme to turn our classroom into a pretend house and learn about the different kinds of houses animals make, from spider webs to bird's nests. Play the CD for songs about building a house and imitate the hammer and saw sound effects to build your own imaginary house. Sing along with the songs that make daily routines for your child even easier—and you can whistle while you work, dust, or scrub in the tub.

(6) Let's Play

All the ways a child plays—on a playground, in a playroom, and the special relationship that grows between a child and stuffed toy as they play together—is a central learning theme. Focused listening activities feature schoolyard sounds and give way to playing games children can take outside, such as “Follow the Leader.” Plus, the train game with “Alle Gallo” develops “stop and go” abilities when children start slow and speed up with this locomotive game. Focused listening activities feature the sounds heard in a playroom with a jack-in-the-box, sand blocks. Active movement features the toy box, too, when children move like toys at play, such as toy soldiers and floating balloons. *(A piece of Mini-tambourine)*

(7) Marvelous Me

Every little finger, head, shoulder, knee, and toe loves this learning theme—“Me.” In the age of self-discovery, you’ll sing songs together about all things that sprout up and grow, such as tadpoles into frogs, acorns into trees, and baby brothers into big brothers. With Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes, as the central theme and story, you’ll love the bouncy, flouncy, calypso, and ukulele musical sounds, with special featured recordings of children and babies laughing to improve listening and memory skills. Special musical recordings on the Home CD include “Rig-A-Jig-Jig,” “We’ll be Friends for Evermore,” and “The Growing Song.”

(8) On the Go

This unit puts a new spin on trains and cars. In class, we’ll talk about things on the go and listen for the sounds they make. With a real-sounding train whistle, sound effects, and “get your motor running” music in your Student Kit, you can take the learning on the go, go, go as you as you help your child develop body control and physical coordination. *(A piece of Wooden Train-whistle)*

(9) Out & About

All the wonder of being outdoors in summer is set to music with imaginary bike rides, walks on the beach, star-gazing, and hiking in the mountains. In the great outdoors of her imagination, your child will peddle make-believe bikes and take turns on swings. With focused listening activities that feature the sounds of summer, you’ll share your musical summer stories with your child when you dig together in the sand and fly like seagulls with activities in the Home Activity Guide and Home CDs, including the beach counting game “Five Little Seagulls,” “Charlie Over the Ocean,” and the soothing, star-gazing sound of “Oh Watch the Stars.”

(10) Outside My Window

In this unit, your child will play in all kinds of pretend weather and learn how to dress for the rain, snow, wind, and more. Your Student Kits help you turn empty cans, uncooked rice, cardboard boxes, or uncooked pasta into instruments to make your own weather sounds. In a child’s visual world, making a visual instrument brings focus to the attention required for listening. Plus you’ll love the CDs variety of songs for a wintry “Skater’s Waltz,” a sunny “Sally Go Round the Sun,” and a rainy “Rain, Rain, Go Away.”

(11) Splash

In this unit, we’ll think and talk in threes. We’ll sing songs that help your child seek and find that pattern, such as the threes in “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” We’ll talk about things that live in or around the water—such as penguins and sailors. The Student Kit comes in threes, too, with sailor and water songs, crafty activities (make your own bubble art), and a blowup beach ball.

(A piece of Beach ball)

(12) Up in the Sky

In this class, your child will read a story about a boy who wants to take over the reigns of the family kite. Then grab a scarf or handkerchief and imitate the up and down, crouching, reaching, and running associated with flying a kite—just like the boy in the story. The Student Kit includes activities you can easily incorporate into your day to reinforce our counting and color-learning activities in class. Your CD includes songs you can sing to the sky, too: “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” and “Mr. Sun,” while learning colors and more. *(A piece of 3-Bell Jingle)*

(13) Silly All Over

This unit gives children a case of the giggles. They will listen to silly sounds, move in silly ways, and read a story about a mouse that puts clothes on all the wrong places. Laugh a little, and get *Silly All Over!* **Home Kit:** pair of green Sandblocks, Home CD and magazine-style Family Guide.

(A pair of Zig-Zag Blocks)

(14) Family & Friends

Children will sing songs; say rhymes, dance, and play, all around the theme of friends and family members. They will listen to grandma and grandpa calling on the phone, hear a conversation between two friends, and take turns with classmates playing the triangle and rolling a ball. They'll listen to a story about lots of different family members moving like lots of different animals. Come join the fun! Sing and play with our *Family & Friends!* **Home Kit:** Home CD and magazine-style Family Guide.

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Move & Groove (4 - 6 years old)

(1) All Keyed Up

The All Keyed Up unit immerses children in the magic of keyboards of all kinds. They will learn about the composer J.S. Bach, listen to and learn about pianos, organs, synthesizers, and harpsichords, and investigate the similarities and differences between these related instruments. While they're at it, they'll explore staccato and legato sounds: moving and playing instruments, listening to music selections, and learning graphic notation for these concepts. It's no wonder this unit has preschoolers All Keyed Up! *(A pair of Wooden Clackers)*

(2) Dance with Me

This unit features the music and dance of “one-two” rhythms, and “one-two-three” rhythms. In class, we'll hear real instruments from the ballet and learn a few dance steps, too. Activities like dance, where your child follows a short sequence of instructions, strengthens memory and listening skills to follow directions. At home, play the CD in your Student Kit and let your preschooler show you a new step or two. *(A pair of Lumi sticks)*

(3) Drums, Drums, Drums

Your child will experience the concept of fractions through hearing and playing quarter and eighth notes. In class, we'll do “call and response” activities to the rhythmic sounds of African music. Meanwhile, your child will sharpen listening and attention skills. Play together the activities in your Student Kit, and you'll help your preschooler develop a strong foundation in math, rhythm and coordination, and critical listening.

(4) Feel the Music

Your child's ability to express emotion and ask for help from teachers and friends is a necessary skill in school. Your child will learn more about the words that describe a range of emotions, while learning more about the feelings of others. The Student Kit includes the same music and stories we'll be talking about in class to help you open the door to the world of emotions your preschooler is learning to express. *(A piece of Mini Maracas)*

(5) Giggles

Knock-knock. Who's there? Musical learning. Some of the things kids don't normally think of as instruments to make music will hit just the right tone—and funny bones—of the children in this unit. Your educator will use humor and laughter to help children understand the musical concepts of tempo, such as largo and presto. Preschoolers will crawl like a slow sloth, and use some interesting items from the folk music genre for instruments, such as the washboard, and spoons in focused listening activities. Plus, with featured instruments such as a guiro and banjo, your preschooler will playing along with zigzag blocks, castanets, sand blocks. *(A piece of Harmonica)*

(6) Jazz Kitchen

Where else but a Jazz Kitchen can you cook up learning like this? Using the multi-talented animals in the story, Noodles from Scratch, preschoolers will discover musical terms and concepts such as quarter notes and eighth notes. Then they'll put those concepts and steady beats into play with a combination of homemade instruments you can whip up in the kitchen. With featured instruments such as jazzy vibes, bass, flutes, and the saxophone setting the backdrop, the class will be a bunch of cool cats talking about scat singing, and the difference between the white and black keys on a piano.

(7) Join the Parade!

In the Join the Parade unit, everyone gets to be in the band! Children will move to parade and march music, listen to instruments from marching bands, and hear about a boy who creates his own musical parade. It's all about loud and quiet, too—preschoolers will learn the musical terms piano (quiet) and forte (loud), then they'll explore them in lots of different ways. Come along—it's time to Join the Parade!

(8) Jumping Beans

The Jumping Beans unit jumps into the rhythms of Latin America! Children will listen to a variety of Latin music styles, play instruments, dance, and investigate the concept of a musical rest. They will move and stop their bodies, explore expressive movement, sing some Spanish words and phrases, and even jump like jumping beans. ¡Olé! *(A piece of Pan-flute)*

(9) Rhythms of the Land

In class, we'll explore the rhythms and sounds of Native American music. As we investigate, compare, and contrast the wide variety of drums and materials they're made from, your preschooler develops a scientific investigative vocabulary. When you repeat that learning pattern at home and share the activities in your Student Kit, your child gets an early start in math, too. *(A piece of Jingle-stick)*

(10) Sing a Story

Mozart and math? With exposure to singing and music notation, your child gets more experience with abstract symbols. In class, we'll explore how abstract thoughts are shared and communicated with symbols, such as a musical note. This same abstract thinking process helps your child learn letters of the alphabet and numbers. You can reinforce these learning concepts at home with your Student Kit as you share your understanding of music with each other.

(11) Sounds Abound

In class, we'll explore sounds we can make with our mouths, our bodies, and our own two hands. Your Student Kit provides instructions for instruments made from found objects around the house. Play along with the music on your CDs and your child develops an early understanding of technology and how materials can be used to make something else. Activities in your Student Kit help you bring these big ideas home when you take part in the listening, turn-taking, and sound-effect making activities.

(12) Under the Rainbow

With Irish music as your guide, your preschooler will go over and Under the Rainbow as the class explores all the up-and-down sounds that music can make. A mischievous leprechaun will keep the children focused on the whereabouts of his gold, as they are introduced to the musical notes and concepts: sounds that go high and low, and slide up and down the musical scale, just like a ride down a rainbow. Featured instruments in the recordings for this class include slide whistles and trombones. With colorful scarves, piccolos, bassoons, and clarinets, every eye will be an Irish one, and smiling, and learning.