

How My Music Starts Here works in the classroom:

What content is provided to teachers?

Our content includes short videos of Mary and Mike teaching songs, poems, steady beat activities, and dances – both child-centered and teacher-centered – accompanied by sample integration plans. Our teacher education videos train the teacher in the best practices and how to implement them effectively. We include carefully curated audio playlists of appropriate music for young children (classical, folk, and jazz).

How is the program organized?

Our content is organized seasonally and designed to follow the flow of a preschool day (morning circle, transitions, after recess, etc.). Our written integration plans support student engagement and give tiered levels of mastery for each developmental level. Everything is designed to match a teacher's musical confidence level.

How does the program fit into the daily schedule?

We *are* teachers and designed this *for* teachers. Our program supports teachers to implement music learning into *already established* classroom routines, *not* to be something else they have to magically fit into their busy day.

How much of a time commitment is there for teachers?

There is very little time commitment on behalf of the teacher. Their initial learning is covered during the training session, with most of their learning taking place right alongside their students as our program is designed to be both educational for students and educative for teachers. Sample integration plans are provided so that a teacher can jump in without any prior knowledge. Flexibility is key - every teacher is different, every classroom is different – and we have designed My Music Starts Here so that a teacher can make it work at their speed and comfort level.

Is there a need for certain instruments or AV equipment to use the program effectively?

Whatever the situation, we can make it work! If the teacher would like to show the child-centered videos to their students, they will need access to the internet, a computer, and a large screen.

If the teacher would like to learn on their own outside of the classroom then implement the lessons in the classroom, they can access training videos on the website to learn about the best practices and implement all of the lessons on their own.

For curated playlists, teachers will need a way of playing music in their classroom. If internet is unavailable, CDs will be provided. All videos are designed so that no additional materials are needed to participate fully in the lessons, but complimentary to using rhythm sticks and other classroom instruments.

A Sample Daily Schedule for Music Learning

How does music learning fit into the routine and flow of the classroom?

As children enter the classroom...

1. Active listening: “Rodeo” by Aaron Copland, Fall, Playlist #1, Track 8
Engaging Question: Is this music exciting or calming?

During morning circle time...

2. Body warm up: “On My Toe There is a Flea”, Fall, Playlist #2, Video #2 – **2 minutes**
3. Fingerplay: “Two Little Blackbirds”, Fall, Playlist #2, Video #5 – **3 minutes**
4. Vocal warm up: Scarf! (without video) – **45 seconds**
5. Song: “Gray Squirrel” (without video, start on A) – **4 minutes**
6. Steady Beat: “Djembe beats”, Fall, Playlist #3, Video #6 – **5 minutes**
(Materials: student rhythm sticks)

During Centers...

7. Transitions: “Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony, Mvmt. 1”, Fall, Playlist #4, Track 5

After Recess...

8. Musical Mindfulness Minute: “The Swan” by Saint-Saens, Fall, Playlist #5, Track 3 – **3 minutes**

After Lunch...

9. Time to move!: “Mother Goose Bird” (without video – students lead!) – **4 minutes**

While Packing up...

10. Songtales: “Down by the Bay”, Fall, Playlist #7, Video #5

Before Dismissal...

11. Dancing Together: “Loobee Loo” (without video – start on F) – **5 minutes**
12. Goodbye Song: “You are my Sunshine” (without video – start on middle C)