

Music Lesson Activities



Six ready-to-use activities for classroom music lessons

Dear Music Teaching Friend,


Welcome to the wonderful world of MUSIC TEACHING! Whether you've been teaching music in the classroom for the past 30 years, or you've just been asked to start and don't know what to do, I know you're going to get a LOT of useful information out of this PDF download e-book.

Being a music teacher myself, I know that the activities or ideas you choose for your classes are really important. This is because they are your first steps in creating rapport with your students and creating an atmosphere of fun and positive energy. Plus, they help you create an environment for learning and productivity.

Here at the Fun Music Company, we specialise in taking complex ideas and presenting them in a workable, easy and fun way! You can use these lesson ideas instantly with your classes.

The only equipment you'll need to run each of these ideas in your classes is a classroom screen!



To access each activity simply click on the  icon at the bottom of each page. You can also bookmark those pages, so you can return to them time and time again.

Some of these activities require some simple instruments; however, like all resources from the Fun Music Company, they are flexible and adaptable to whatever instruments you have available.

These resources are all small excerpts from the complete online [Fun Music Company curriculum program](#). This is a comprehensive program of music lessons, designed for anyone to use to teach music in a fun, engaging way.

We can't wait for you to get started with these special activities to help you teach music to your classes. Enjoy!



Janice Tuck
Creative Director of
The Fun Music Company



A super easy-and-fun song to introduce kindergarten students to music for the first time.

1. Cows in the Kitchen

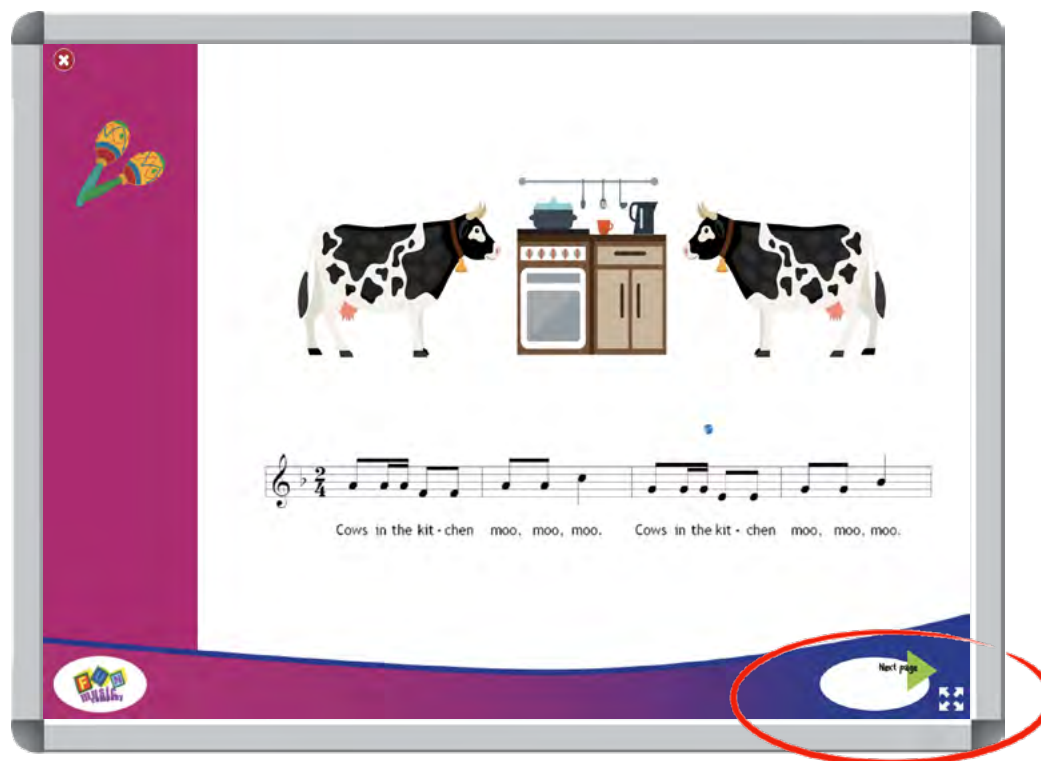
It's your first day of a kindergarten music class, and one thing you'll want to do is sing a song, but how do you get them listening, engaged and attentive? How could this progress to learning some first instruments?

This is a fun lesson idea based on a well-known folk song called ***Cows in the Kitchen***. Within a few minutes we'll show you how to get children singing then playing in just a few easy steps. This is laying the solid groundwork for any grade!

Children start with learning to play a beat in time to the music, then they learn the story and words of the song within a few minutes.

After watching these next few video steps, students will know the steps to be able to play the castanets or tambourines in time with the music.

These videos are just one of many lesson plans for singing and playing instruments in our [Kindergarten Fun Music Company curriculum](#). This demystifies the process of how to start with singing a song and move into playing instruments.



Use these controls to navigate through the free resources.



Click and bookmark this page for use in the classroom.



Tutorial video

A fun game to get students listening, attentive and ready for learning.

2. Echo rhythm game

Just about every teacher has at one time or another clapped a rhythm and had the class echo it to get their class's attention.

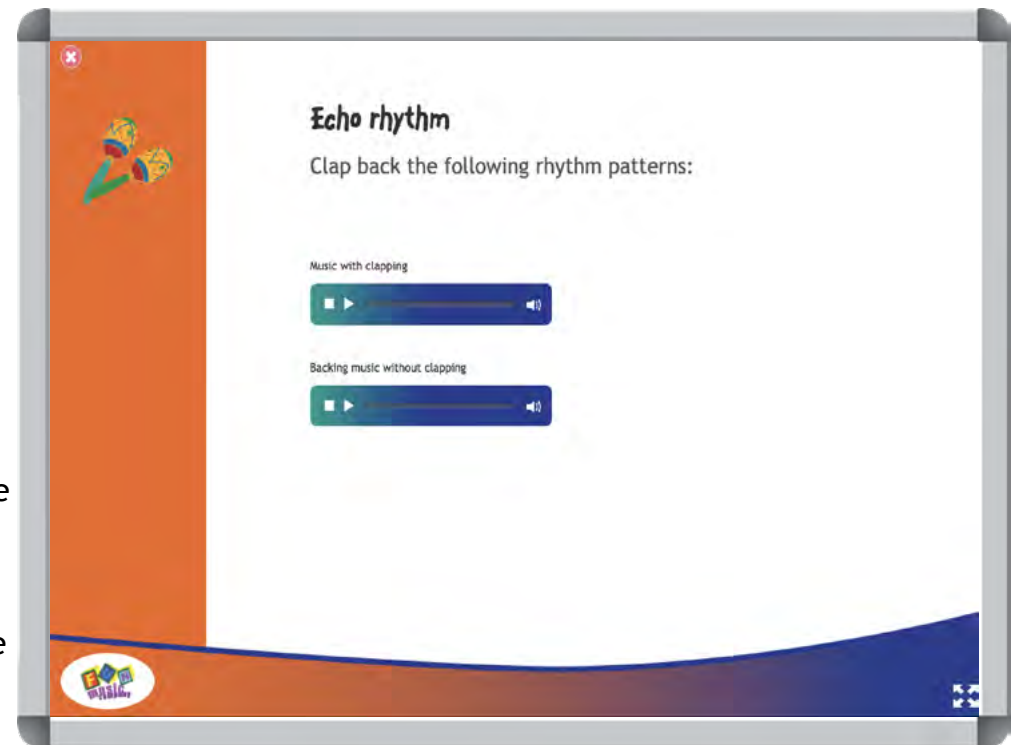
But while most teachers know this to be a standard attention grabber, music teachers can extend this simple habit into an AMAZINGLY effective way of getting students to listen better!

And when children learn to listen better it helps them to better understand differences in things like volume, rhythm, tempo and, with practice, onto pitch. In music, this area is often called AURAL training, which is part of the SKILLS section of the curriculum.

In this video, we show you how to make this music idea work and even give you a sample lesson presentation to use with your students, so you can see it work in your classes too!

Click the links below to learn how to implement the activity with the tutorial video, and then use the online resource in the classroom.

This is part of the SKILLS section of the [Fun Music Company curriculum program](#), and it is included at every grade level.



Click and bookmark this page for use in the classroom.



Tutorial video

How singing quickly moves into playing using simple rhythms, instruments and body percussion!

3. Moving from singing to untuned percussion

What does it take to get your students confidently PLAYING music together in the classroom with success?

Children really enjoy and respond well to playing LOTS of different instruments and parts.

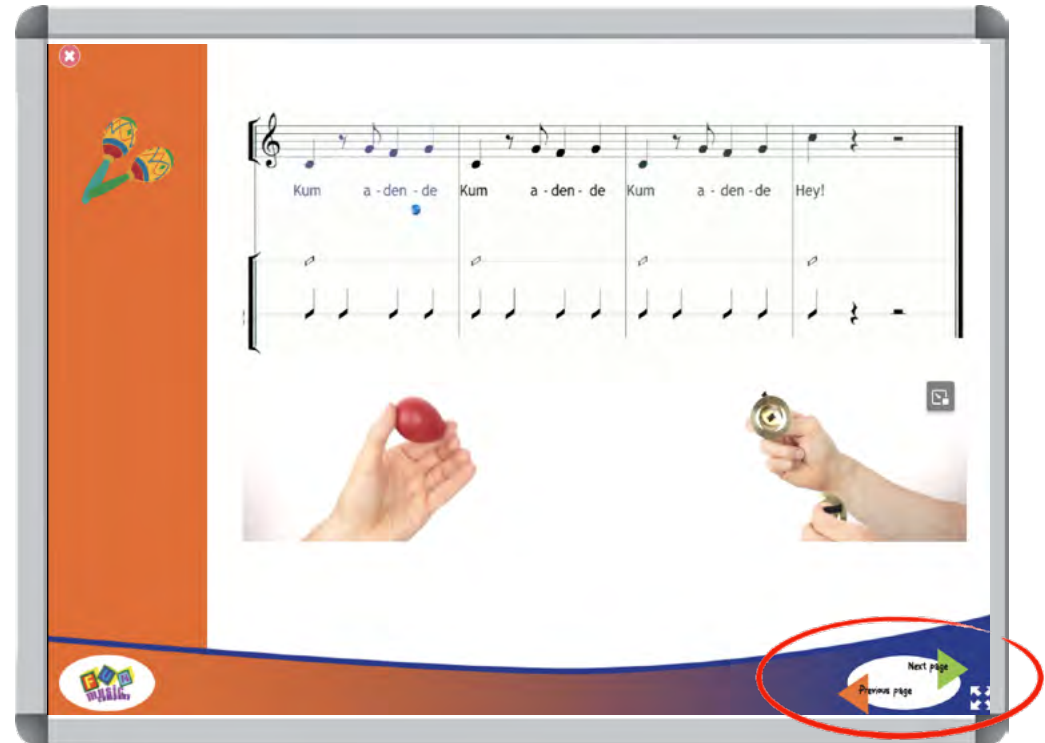
However, without the right resources, it can all get very COMPLICATED and NOISY very quickly - especially when playing instrument such as drums, tambourines, castanets and triangles in the classroom all at the same time.

That's why in these videos, each playing experience gets broken down into smaller steps to learn ONE concept at a time.

By learning ONE thing at a time together as a class, the children will quickly learn and remember the:
ONE new part,
the ONE new rhythm,
or the ONE new playing technique!

And over time, all of these smaller strategies stack up upon each other make it possible to play more complicated songs and build their musicianship and skills.

Begin with the singing and press the next page button (you'll find it at the right bottom of each screen) to quickly move towards playing this fun African folk song using two small and simple classroom instruments and this series of simple steps inside our [Grade One Fun Music Company curriculum](#) program.



These resources include several pages. Use these controls to navigate through them.



Click and bookmark this page for use in the classroom.



Tutorial video

An easy way to get children started with instruments like xylophones, chime bars and Boomwhackers.

4. Two note tuned percussion piece

Tuned percussion. Most schools have a collection of dusty xylophones somewhere in a cupboard that don't get used anywhere near enough!

However, the truth is that tuned percussion works! It's easy, fun and students can participate and play tunes immediately within their first lesson!

This activity is designed to use just two notes, so children can pick it up easily and quickly. You can use any tuned percussion instrument, keyboards or Boomwhacker pitched percussion tubes.

This video is a series of simple steps inside our [Grade Two Fun Music Company curriculum](#) program. It shows you how to confidently teach playing a fun, catchy song from Israel.

It uses just two notes on various tuned instruments such as the Boomwhackers, the chime bars and the xylophones.

Because it is only two notes, children can learn first using body percussion. They will then transfer the patterns they have learned to the instruments. This is all demonstrated on video, and students will participate while they watch the videos.



[Online resource](#)

Click and bookmark this page for use in the classroom.



Tutorial video

A fun way to create music using sound effects.

5. Soundscaping composition

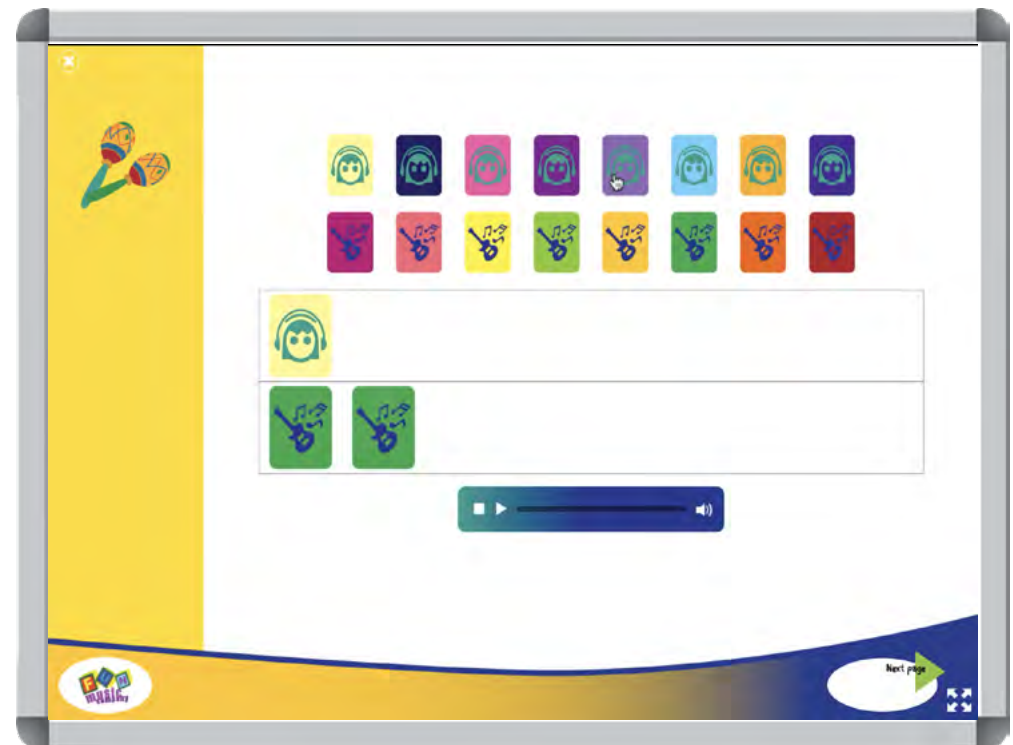
If you're needing to teach music composition to early years classes, these two videos could really help!

A lot of people would say teaching composition when young children can barely even read music or play a note is difficult, if not impossible!

The truth is - most teachers aren't trained in the area of composition and most teachers aren't composers!

But do you know what? At the Fun Music Company, we're probably a little controversial in this area ... because we think teaching composition can be the most impactful, best area we ever get to teach!

In this lesson plan we guide you through the core basics and STRATEGY behind how to get children having fun with composition and getting creative in just two easy stages, even if they've never written a music note before!



Children will listen to musical examples, and drag and drop them into a composition to create their own piece of music! Composition activities like this one are woven right throughout the [Fun Music Company Curriculum](#) program.

Make sure to watch the tutorial video below to get the most out of this activity with your classes.



Click and bookmark this page for use in the classroom.



Tutorial video

Listen and develop their appreciation of all kinds of music while covering the curriculum.

6. Directed listening activity

How do you get (and keep) their attention in music listening lessons?

Music appreciation lessons are about developing our students' listening skills and appreciation. Students need to be exposed to all kinds of cultures, genres and instruments in music listening lessons.

But while saying that sounds easy, it's actually really hard to do in practice!

The good news is that it's not that hard if you keep learning segments short and focused with good quality questions.

And that's exactly what we provide for you in this area of the curriculum we call **CONNECT**.

CONNECT lessons consist of a short video where we introduce the core topic. Then students listen to the example and complete a worksheet. We then provide the answers to the worksheet on the screen, plus class discussion questions to prompt in-depth learning.

In this included sample **CONNECT** lesson from Grade Four, students will explore the music of Louis Armstrong. They will listen, answer questions and then think about how the music they've just listened to compares to the pop music of today.

CONNECT is included at every grade level of the [Fun Music Company curriculum](#) program.

The screenshot shows a digital interface for a music lesson. On the left is a blue sidebar with a drum icon and a 'Fun Music Company' logo. The main area has a title 'Louis Armstrong' and 'What a Wonderful World'. It includes a video player with a red play button and the URL 'www.funmusiccompany.com'. Below the video are six numbered questions for a worksheet, each with a blank line for an answer. A 'Word bank' box on the right lists: trombone, Armstrong, trumpet, movie, strings, brushes. At the bottom are buttons for 'Show answers', 'Next page', and 'Previous page'.

Louis Armstrong
What a Wonderful World

Watch the video, then complete the following with answers from the word bank:

The singer in this clip is Louis (1) Armstrong.

He is holding his instrument, the (2) trumpet in this clip, but he doesn't play it.

A prominent musical instrument section that you can hear, but not see in the clip are the (3) strings.

Standing behind Armstrong in the clip is someone playing a (4) trombone.

This song hit the charts when it was released in 1968 and also again in 1988, when it was featured in a (5) movie called 'Good Morning Vietnam'.

The drums are very quiet in this song, and although you can't see them, you can hear that the drummer is using (6) brushes instead of sticks.

Word bank
trombone
Armstrong
trumpet
movie
strings
brushes

Show answers Next page Previous page

[Online resource](#)

Click and bookmark this page for use in the classroom.



Tutorial video

Get access to complete program of lessons for K-6 music, prepared and ready to use.

What you've seen in this e-book is just a tiny sample of the hundreds of ideas, activities, songs and lessons that are part of the [Fun Music Company curriculum](https://funmusicco.com/fun-music-company-music-curriculum/) program. This is a complete platform for teaching K-6 music, which helps teachers make music teaching more fun and fulfilling, while simultaneously reducing the amount of preparation time required.

Three easy steps to reducing lesson preparation time with the Fun Music Company curriculum program:

1. Select your lesson.

2. Quickly review.

3. Teach with engaging and interactive materials.



"Having access to the Fun Music Company online lessons over the last couple of years has made the teaching and planning of my music lessons SO much easier"

Check out the success stories here of teachers who have reduced their stress, and made their classes more fun and fulfilling.

<https://funmusicco.com/fun-music-company-music-curriculum/>