

# First Steps in Music

Welcome to *First Steps in Music for Preschool and Beyond!* The curriculum, written by Dr. John Feierabend, is based on folk and traditional songs and rhymes because of their ability to connect generations. They have natural melodic expressiveness, easy flow of the language and texts filled with wonder. John Feierabend is Music Education Chair for the University of Hartford and is considered a leading authority in music and movement development in early childhood.

The curriculum is based on early childhood research related to the development of:

Music intelligence	Musical memory
Singing skills	Preferences
Sensitivity to the beat & beat groups	Neurological connections
Expressive movement	

## Goals for Children

1. Accurate rhythmic skills
2. Accurate singing skills
3. Sensitivity to the expressive qualities in music

*First Steps in Music* is designed to prepare children to become musical in three ways:

1. Tuneful-to have tunes in their heads and coordinate their voices to sing these tunes.
2. Beatful-to feel the pulse of music and how that pulse is grouped in either twos or threes.
3. Artful-to be moved by music in the many ways music can elicit an emotional response.

**Children who learn to be *tuneful, beatful and artful* will grow to be adults who benefit from what music has to offer. Those who go on to sing in choirs or play an instrument will do so in a more musical manner. Those who choose not to sing in choirs or play an instrument will still be enriched by being able to share music in their daily lives.**

## Eight Musical Workout Activities

1. *Pitch Exploration*-helps children engage the vocal muscles
2. *Song Fragments*-provide children an opportunity to sing a short phrase alone
3. *Simple Songs*-encourage independent singing and assimilating a whole song
4. *Arioso*-children are encouraged to spontaneously create tunes and songs
5. *Movement Exploration*-movement warm-ups to help children develop body coordination, expressive sensitivity and broaden the portfolio of movement possibilities
6. *Movement for Form & Expression*-help children experience the expressive qualities in music through movement
7. *Beat Motion*-helps to develop an intuition for the beat in music, central to later rhythmic development
8. *Song Tales*-help develop listening skills and provide an opportunity for children to hear the expressiveness in excellent examples of music literature