

Music Makers: At Home in the World

WOODLANDS

PARENTS' GUIDE TO ACTIVITIES

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Music Makers: At Home in the World

- Family Packets for: *My Home Place, Woodlands, Cattail Marsh, and Meadow*
Each unit includes: 1) Folder/Poster with Game Pieces, 2) Recording with songs, dances, instrument demonstrations, notation games and classical music, 3) Instrument Poster(s), 4) Notation Game(s), 5) Parent's Guide to the Activities
- Family Packets for *My Neighborhood Community* and *Seashore*, additional units containing similar resources without sequentially based materials
- My Album Binder for children to collect their materials
- *Teacher's Guide*, bound book with 160 activity cards, lesson planning binder, Supplement 2000
- *Nature's Voices* CD
- *Instruments and Ensembles* CD

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<i>Family Music for Babies</i>	- newborn to 18 months
<i>Family Music for Toddlers</i>	- 15 months to 3 ½ years
<i>The Cycle of Seasons</i>	- 3 to 5 years
<i>Music Makers: At Home & Around the World Music</i>	- 4 to 8 years
<i>Makers: Around the World at the Keyboard Music</i>	- from age 5
<i>Makers: At the Keyboard</i>	- from age 6
<i>Musikgarten Adults: Enjoying the Piano Together</i>	

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<i>God's Children Sing</i>	<i>Nimble and Quick</i>
<i>My Musical World</i>	<i>Seashore</i>
<i>My Neighborhood Community</i>	<i>Summer</i>
<i>Nature's Music</i>	<i>Twist & Turn</i>
<i>Nature Trail</i>	

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MAKING MUSIC AT HOME

We have prepared this family packet to help you take the joy of the *Music Makers* classes home! It is our hope that these materials will help you and your family “fill the air with music” in your daily life.

Your family packet consists of a recording, a folder/poster of the *Woodlands* with seven Game Pieces, a picture of the featured instrumental ensemble *Percussion Instruments*, and two notation games, *Duple Rhythm Cards* and *Dynamics Cards*, in addition to this *Parents’ Guide to the Activities*. The guide is structured to follow the activities as they are presented on the recording. On the recording you will find songs, poems and stories, as well as sounds, listening games and movement activities. Use these examples on which to build your own games and explorations.

Listen-Move-Sing-Play — these are the four main areas of our activities in *Music Makers*. We urge you to share these activities with your child to increase his/her participation in and enjoyment of the *Music Makers* program. In this booklet you will find many ideas to help you do this in each of these key areas.

The *Woodlands* poster features a very large red oak tree with a pileated woodpecker excavating a chosen site. Another large tree has fallen to the ground and provides homes for a porcupine, a deer mouse with her young, and a colony of ants (under the bark).

Much of the forest floor is covered in a deep layer of leaf litter and is a busy place providing both food and shelter for insects and rodents. Other fruiting plants produce seeds, many of which escape being eaten and germinate the following year. For wild animals the acorn is an abundant food resource and the cones of the evergreen hemlock trees supply seeds for many small rodents such as the red squirrel, chipmunk, and deer mouse.

Animals who occupy this habitat share a day and night shift. The pileated woodpecker, red squirrel, chipmunk, hermit thrush, cicada and click beetle forage in the daylight hours while the porcupine, great horned owl, skunk, raccoon, deer mouse and katydid are nocturnal foragers.

There are seven Game Pieces to highlight various aspects of the poster as you *go looking to see if anybody is home*. The Game Pieces represent daytime animals: chipmunk, cicada, hermit thrush, and click beetle and also several from the night shift: great horned owl, raccoon, and katydid.

Some colorful fungi grow on living trees while others speed the process of decomposition. In mixed woodlands you will find both deciduous (broad leaves shed in winter) and evergreen trees. Both provide cavity nesting places and shelter for the animals in severe weather.

The *Woodlands* is a busy place anytime you visit. When you and your child go looking, be sure to look up and down, to tread softly, and be ready to freeze instantly. Don’t forget to return an upturned stone to its place and please do not disturb anyone or anything. There is much to see on a woodlands walk and distances need not be long. Go soon!

Shakers, Cymbals, Drums and the Vibraphone are the members of the percussion family of instruments which are featured in this unit. Your child is already familiar with many

percussion instruments and will thoroughly enjoy hearing and seeing the variety expressed on the recording. It is important for your child to have the opportunity to touch and play instruments; visit your local music store to see what they have available and are willing to let you explore.

Children's most favorite activities include drawing and coloring. Always encourage your child to draw whatever captures his/her imagination and to put the drawing in his/her Music Makers album.

Make music together often. Become your child's companion in discovering the world of music. You will be given the opportunity to watch your child's love of music grow and to help his/her ability to make music blossom.

PLAYING MELODIC MOTIFS

Do you remember when your child was learning to speak? At first there were just one or two words, then words were gradually strung together in phrases and sentences to express thoughts and feelings. Now s/he speaks in fluent sentences. This is a natural pattern of learning that you can also observe in your child as s/he learns to sing and play melodies.

In our music classes we frequently sing and play patterns and short snatches of melodies which are easy for the children to remember. Short melodic motifs are the building blocks from which your child will someday be able to construct and play a whole song. Your child will experience melodic motifs in echo games, songs and listening exercises. We will work with them aurally, vocally and on instruments. Finding a familiar motif in a song is an exciting discovery. Do you remember the joy of being able to pick out a melody on the piano? Discovering something yourself is an exhilarating way to learn, as well as being the most effective way. The Music Makers' repertoire is carefully selected to contain several songs in each unit which have suitable melodic motifs for "discovery."

Each child learns at his/her own pace. Talk with your child's teacher to find out what is an appropriate activity for your child at this time. Above all keep the activity playful. Our role as educators (both teachers and parents) is to create the environment and provide the guidance so that "discovery learning" can happen. Play with your child frequently, make the elements of musical learning available. Your child will pick them up and put them together when the time is just right!

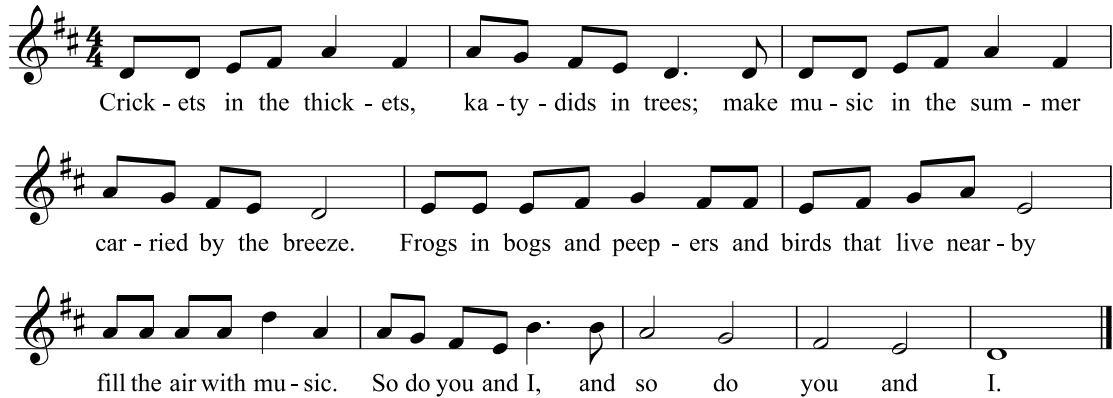
For specific suggestions look for the note about "Playing Melodic Motifs" under the songs "The Owl Sings," "I See the Moon," "Let Us Chase the Squirrel," and "Mouse, Mousie."

We recommend the D Major octave of resonator bars as an instrument for your child. Each tone is mounted on a separate sound chamber, therefore you can take out just those notes which you need to play a particular motif. This makes it much easier for your child. Talk with your music teachers about how and where you can purchase this instrument. It is possible to buy the tones singly and build your home instrument over a period of time. You could also use any barred instrument, such as a xylophone or glockenspiel, or a keyboard instrument. For the barred instruments, take off the bars which are not needed; on a keyboard, mark the *d* with a sticker to guide the eye.

1. MUSIC MAKERS

Music: Beverly Glenn-Copeland

Text: Aileen Fisher



Crick - ets in the thick - ets, ka - ty - dids in trees; make mu - sic in the sum - mer
car - ried by the breeze. Frogs in bogs and peep - ers and birds that live near - by
fill the air with mu - sic. So do you and I, and so do you and I.

Recorded by: Children, Flute

American poet and author Aileen Fisher wrote this special verse for our *Music Makers* Series! Canadian song writer Beverly Glenn-Copeland wrote the melody and composer Howard Baer has created this joyous setting for our theme song. We invite you to improvise your own way of making music to this tune. Use any and all of the instruments which you have to fill the air with music.

WOODLANDS

Introduction to the Poster

Lay out the poster for the Woodlands. Go looking together to find the pileated woodpecker excavating a home, the red squirrel finding acorns and the ant colony under the bark of the fallen tree trunk. Think about where you might place the following Game Pieces: the chipmunk (possibly near the tree stump), click beetle (probably on the leaf litter), the raccoon (maybe looking for food in the stream).

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

Woodlands 1 (Week 8)

- Listen to the new recording.
- Choose a favorite song and sing with the whole family.
- Take a walk outside; listen for sounds. Imitate them vocally and identify the source.

Woodlands 2 (Week 9)

- Play games with the Duple Rhythm Cards (see p. 19).
- Take a walk and listen for voices of night. Identify the sources and imitate them vocally.

Woodlands 3 (Week 10)

- Sing *I See the Moon*; go outside at night and look for the phases of the moon. Share a poem about the moon and look for the man in the moon.
- Play a game with the Dynamic Cards and explore dynamic levels vocally.
- Invent a weather story and accompany it with body movements, instruments or vocal sounds. Draw a weather composition, using the drawings from class and additional ones you make at home.
- Go outside to experience various weather phenomena; can you show how the weather is, and how you feel about the weather with your body?

Woodlands 4 (Week 11)

- Sing and dance to *Debka Hora* with family and friends.
- Play a game with the Dynamic Cards (see p. 20).

Woodlands 5 (Week 12)

- Make a simple drum to accompany the family in song and dance. Make some rattle instruments, using a small container and various contents such as pebbles, rice, etc.
- Play games with the Duple Rhythm Cards. Be sure to listen to No. 36 on your CD.
- Watch for birds in the garden or on a walk and try mimicking their flight.

Woodlands 6 (Week 13)

- Sing and dance *Seven Jumps* with the whole family.
- Listen to the Beethoven *Appassionata Sonata* excerpt. Play a game with the Dynamics Cards.
- Sing and play instruments emphasizing loud and soft.
- Explore the timbre of household objects; emphasize loud and soft.

Woodlands 7 (Week 14)

- Sing and play the *Drum Song*. Either child or parent can be the conductor. The conductor holds up one of the Dynamic Cards to instruct the player how to play. Be sure to exchange roles.
- Take a walk and pick up natural objects to serve as tap and shake instruments.
- Make up an ensemble to share with the family.
- Talk with your child about different ways you can move through a space, following a straight line, moving zig-zag, turning in circles as you move forward, etc. Try some of these pathways inside or out, draw them in the air, then make a map of new ways to get from one place to another.

Woodlands 8 (Week 15)

- Sing, dance and play your favorite songs. Repeat them often.
- Get out all three Notation Games. Sort them; then take turns choosing a game to play.
- Look for beetles, especially lady bird beetles. Climb a tree and see another world view.
- Make singing and playing instruments part of every day. Repeat favorite activities often.

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Katydid (Poem)	9	5
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