

My house has a variety of plants growing in the front yard, mostly flowers and grasses that are “native” to this corner of the continent. Because of the variety, my family (and our neighbors) gets a pleasing patch of plant blossoms to admire all summer long and long into the fall. No week holds the same array of colors, each is different, so if you asked me when is my favorite week to admire my front yard, I’d say “this week!” But I’d say the same thing next week, as I would have last week. I let my preferences follow the changing season as I observe the wildlife outside my front door. Each week is a new variety of colors, but at the same time, it’s very familiar. These plants put on a show for me last year and years before that. I take comfort in that familiarity. I get both novelty and repetition from my flowers and the mix is good. (Haha, the real repetition is mowing, mowing, mowing the patch of lawn in the back yard, no novelty there!)

And this musing over my woolly suburban landscape is connected to this newsletter how? It’s that novelty versus familiar, different versus similar. We get contentment from a balance of strange new and same old. Our young children, too, crave repeated experiences as well as well as brand new ones. More repetition than most of us adults can fathom. “You want me to read that book to you AGAIN?” “You want to hear the CD again? Okay, just one more time--I had a little frog, his name was tiny Tim, I...put him....in...the....z-z-z-z-z.” Repetition is a great (THE great?) learning tool for young minds. Over and over and over. But the variety has to be there too. A mix of both for young minds. Those two kinds of activities—repeated and new—show up in our classes. Lots of repetition (the “Hello” songs, the “Goodbye” song, the entire Flutes CD over and over in the car), to help young minds comfortably absorb and process the foundations of basic music literacy—and a sprinkling of new musical moments--the weekly “dance” with a new piece of music, the “play-along” with a different song AND a different instrument (although your young one may opt for repetition and the SAME play-along instrument each week, haha, all good!), the parachute brought out in week seven.

Your child will not get bored listening to the Music Together music again and again. You won’t either, IF you engage musically with your child (sing, tap, dance, play legos AND sing, etc.) each time the songs are playing.