

Dear Colleagues,

You may be thinking, “What in the world is Musikgarten doing with Family Music for Toddlers?”

We last updated **Family Music for Toddlers** in 2003 and felt it was time to not only update the look of the material, but also to improve the lesson plans. We did this by keeping what everyone loves about *Sing, Dance, Play, and Clap*, adding some new material, and creating parent books that are visually pleasing, hoping that this visual appeal would encourage the parent to interact with their child more at home using the recording and book together.

But, surely you have been asking other questions like:

- “What is the time schedule for all this new material?”
- “Does this new material replace *Sing, Dance, Play, and Clap*?”
- “Are they going to discontinue selling *Sing, Dance, Play, and Clap*?”
- “What about Family Music training?”
- “What about instruments?”

In total there will be eight new **Family Music** units, four 15-week units and four 4 to 8 week units (to be used during the summer or for short sessions during the school year). This gives you, the teacher, a lot of flexibility and choice to use in your studio.

The time schedule for all of this new material is as follows:

#### **15-week units**

***My Day***: available April 2017

***Animal Friends***: available May 2017

***On a Trip***: available

***New Friends***: available

#### **4-8 week units**

***Playing Outdoors***: available March 2017

***What Do You Hear?***: available March 2017

Working Title ***On a Walk***: available late Fall 2017

Working Title ***Instrument Time***: available late Fall 2017

Does this new material replace *Sing, Dance, Play, and Clap*? The short answer to this is yes, but this does not mean we are going to discontinue the old products immediately. We will get to that shortly.

**Family Music** is not a sequential curriculum, and still will not be, but most people have always started with *Sing with Me*. We have written the new material so it mimics this process. The basic equivalent for each 15-week unit is:

*Sing with Me* = *My Day*

*Dance with Me = Animal Friends*

*Play with Me = On A Trip*

*Clap with Me = New Friends*

This gives you one basic formula for use; you still have the freedom to start where you wish.

Now to curb the fears of those who are either newly trained in *Sing with Me* or just want to continue to teach *Sing, Dance, Play, and Clap* because you love them. We will continue to stock this loved material for quite some time. We do foresee teachers switching to the new material over time and will be reevaluating discontinuing the old **Family Music** materials over the next 3-4 years.

**Beginning in April 2017, Family Music for Toddlers** training sessions will also be using the new material, focusing on *My Day*. This will begin with our [April Toddler 1 webinar](#) and continue into the [Summer 2017 Workshop Family Music for Babies and Toddlers](#). If you are certified in Toddlers you may want to consider auditing either the webinar or workshop. It is inexpensive and may be the shot in the arm you need.

“Where are the instruments?” The new **Family Music** materials do not include instruments, but we do still encourage the use of these in classes and at home. For parents, we have put together 3 attractive Toddler Instrument Sets. Please click this link to see what is included and for pricing. Their purchase is recommended but optional, and there are a couple of ways they can be ordered.

- For the best shipping rate, we encourage teachers to distribute the attached flyer, collect orders from parents and then place one bulk order for the materials.
- Parents can also place their order directly with the office.

I hope this helps to answer your questions. We are excited about these new materials and would love to hear your feedback. Feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support of Musikgarten.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Spickard  
Musikgarten  
President