MIDI for Kids Keyboard

Primary - Book 1

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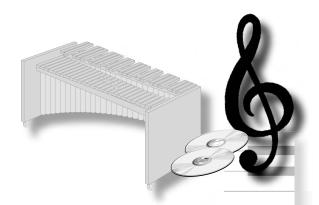
MIDI for Kids





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MIDI FOR KIDS Philosophy

THE MIDI FOR KIDS PROGRAM CAN BE USED AS PRIMARY OR SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTION FOR:

- Private or Class Keyboard Studios
 - After-School MIDI Programs
- Music Classes in Elementary or Home Schools

LEVELS OF INSTRUCTION INCLUDE:

PRIMARY 1st Year Books 1-2 (Grades 1-3) 2nd Year Books 3-4 (Grades 1-3) JR. BEGINNER 1st Year Books 1-2 (Grades 3-6) 2nd Year Books 3-4 (Grades 3-6)

MIDI FOR KIDS is an innovative music curriculum that teaches children keyboard playing skills, improvisation, composition, ensemble playing, and basic and intermediate music concepts. Instruction focuses on teaching music skills through ear-training, improvisation and note reading, musical problem solving, cross-curricular education, and the use of MIDI technology. Based on contemporary research on the importance of interdisciplinary education, our program also provides an environment in which musical concepts are generalized and reinforced through parallel concepts in other subjects.

Parental support and encouragement is an essential part of *MIDI FOR KIDS* instruction. Home practice with parents, once or twice a week, reinforces class learning and gives children another outlet for self-expression and creativity. Although *MIDI FOR KIDS* instruction can take place concurrently with traditional private piano or other instrument instruction, it is not intended to replace these experiences.

The goals of MIDI FOR KIDS are for children to become proficient at improvising, composing and playing music; for children to develop an "I-can-figure-this-out" attitude toward musical learning and learning in general; and for children to achieve a higher level of musical skill, literacy and understanding. MIDI FOR KIDS is devoted to developing student confidence in their ability to succeed intellectually and artistically.

CURRICULUM FOCUS - PRIMARY BOOKS 1 - 2

Each *MIDI FOR KIDS Primary Keyboard* Book is used as a "companion book" to a Piano Method book. While the Piano Method book focuses on playing techniques, literature, and reading music notation, *MIDI FOR KIDS* focuses on training children to play by ear as well as by notation, improvise rhythmic and melodic patterns, read chord symbols, generalize musical concepts through cross-curricular activities, and create parts to play in ensembles. Due to a unique approach to improvisation, the *MIDI FOR KIDS* books teach a few note values, "blue" notes, and chord reading, before the corresponding Piano Methods. Used together, these books blend general music activities, keyboard instruction, technololgy, and a variety of techniques for playing by ear. In <u>Book 1</u>, students are first asked to practice rhythmic and melodic echo-plays with their teacher, then play short patterns and melodies by ear. They follow pictures of rhythmic or melodic patterns, then learn to read notehead notation. <u>In Book 2</u>, students begin with staff notation as a continuation of note reading in the Method book, they play by ear, they begin to understand chords and chord reading, and they create and play in ensembles. In both books, children use a digital keyboard to learn about different instrument "Voices," create boom-chuck percussion, improvised melodies, and fun sound effects. All of these experiences help to give children a broader range of musical understanding and performance.

NOTES TO PARENTS / STUDENTS USING THE MANUAL

The lessons and activities in this manual give students opportunities to learn musical concepts and skills through playing and singing songs, using body percussion and movement, playing rhythm instruments, improvising, and composing. Student manuals with compact disks provide year-round instruction paired with a Piano Method book. Student Activity Sheets accompany each lesson. Designed for fun learning, they review musical concepts, writing skills, creative activities, and ensemble playing. *MIDI FOR KIDS* lessons are designed for a 45-50 minute class with a trained music teacher. Class size may vary from six to eight students.

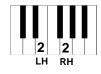
Icons pictured in the lessons are quick, visual references for listening selections, keyboard pitches to play, fingering, notes or rests introduced for the first time, and ensemble scores.



identifies a listening selection in the lesson



indicates finger numbers



gives a quick glance of the notes to play in a song, and the fingering to use



indicates an ensemble score with different parts to play

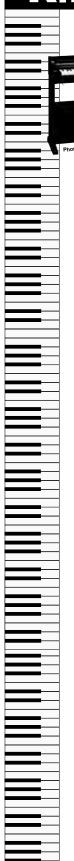
HOME PRACTICE SHEETS

A *Home Practice Sheet* is included with each lesson. These activities are written for students and parents to use at home. Because this book teaches children to play by ear, many songs are represented in pictures and icons rather than staff notation. Directions and visual prompts on the *Home Practice* Sheet help students remember what they played in class, and offer guidelines to parents for notes and rhythms to play in a song. Some activities give parents the opportunity to play-along with their child. When you have listened to your child play, or when you and your child have practiced the activities on the sheet, please sign it at the bottom so the teacher will know the child has understood and practiced the lesson.

COMPACT DISKS

The accompanying compact disks for each Book include: 1) Audio recordings (vocals and instrumentals) of each musical selection; 2) Standard MIDI Files (SMF) of each musical selection: 3) Prepared versions for Roland MT sequencer file players, and disk-drive keyboards, and 4) Yamaha DGX or YPG Files of each musical selection. All Standard MIDI File (SMF) MIDI sequences are provided in Type "O" and Type "1" with corresponding folders titled "SMF Type O" and "SMF Type 1." Generally,

- Use Audio recordings in any standard CD player.
- Use Type "O" SMF's in disk-drive keyboards and other dedicated sequencers.
- Use Type "1" SMF's for computer sequencing software.
- Use MT-Type file formats for Roland MT sequencer file players, and disk-drive keyboards.
- Use DGX or YPG-Type file formats for Yamaha DGX and YPG keyboards.



- Sing a song with your friends.
- Move to music to show the steady beat.
- Play a boom-chuck part on your keyboard.

We're on Our Way!

We're on our way, to a happy day!

It's time for us to have our music play.

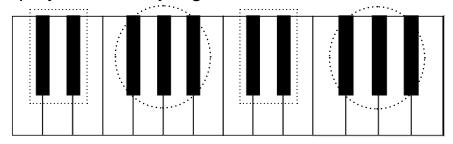
We don't just go to school,

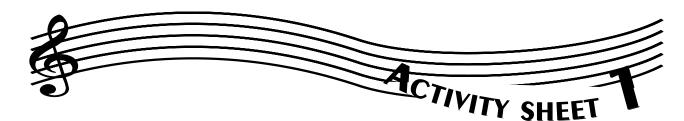
We make music and it's cool!

Shout hooray! We're on our way!

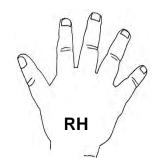


- Find a group of 3 black keys. Find a group of 2 black keys.
- Learn to play this song with fists and fingers.
- Choose to play the melody high or low.

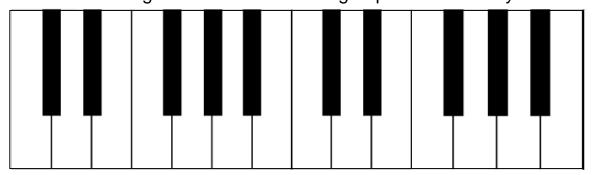




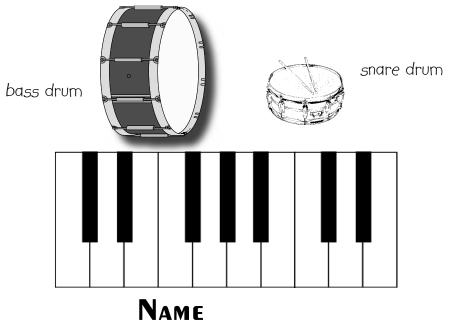
Draw a fingering number above each finger.



2 Draw a red box around the groups of 2 black keys. Draw a green circle around the groups of 3 black keys.



3 Set your keyboard to *Drum Kit*. Draw an arrow from the each instrument picture to the two keys you play to hear the Bass and Snare Drum Voices.





Dear Parents:

Use with Activity 2

Today, your child learned how to play a black-key melody called "Black Key Roll-Up." The melody is played with a right hand fist, the knuckles of the little finger and thumb, and an index finger. Ask your child to play it for you with the recording.



PRACTICE TIPS

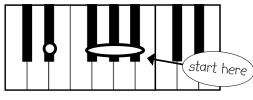
STEP I: Roll the right fist across the group of 3 black keys from left to right, then play the nearest black key, twice, in the group of 2

black keys to the right. Repeat.

start here

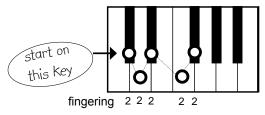
Roll the right hand across the group of 3 black keys from right to left, then play the nearest black key, twice, in the group of 2 black keys to the left. Peneat

2 black keys to the left. Repeat.



STEP 3: Repeat Step 1.

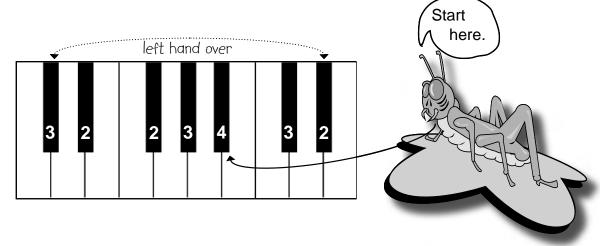
STEP 4: End by playing an upward melody on these keys.





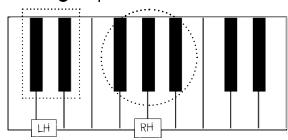
Grasshopper March

- Play a melody on the black keys.
- Listen to the music. When does the grasshopper stamp his foot?



The Notes Go Up

- Play the song.
- Listen for patterns that go up or down.

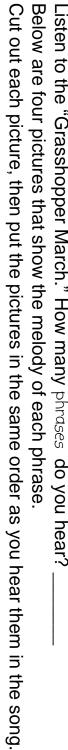


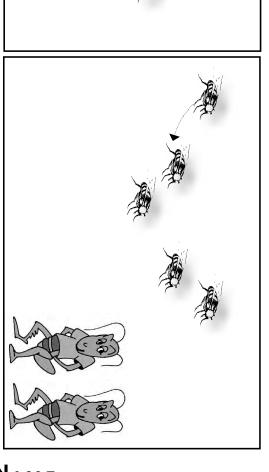
- 1. The notes go up, the notes go down. So bring your smile, not a frown.
- 2. The notes go up, the notes go down. Light up the sky, 'round the town.
- 3. The notes go up, the notes go down. Be who you are, not a clown!

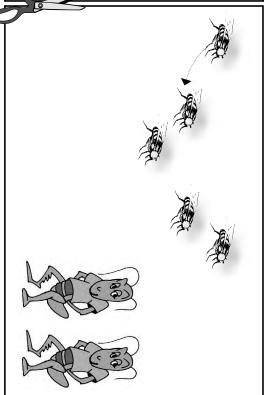
La, la, la, la, la. Yeah!

Every Song Has Phrases









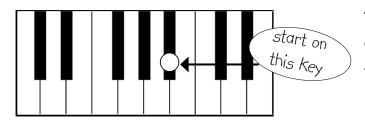




Dear Parents:

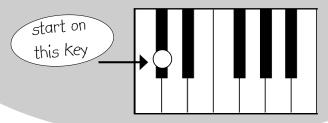
Use with Activities 1 and 2

Today, your child learned how to play a black-key melody called "Grasshopper March." The melody starts with finger 4 of the right hand.



The left hand will cross over to play some keys. Ask your child to play it for you with the recording.

Ask your child to play another song on the black keys, called "The Notes Go Up."





"Grasshopper March" Start with the right hand playing 3 black notes down followed by the 2 grasshopper stamps with the left hand.

"The Notes Go Up" Start with a quick left hand note then the right hand plays 3 black notes going up with fingers 2, 3, and 4.



Augustus the Cat

Augustus the cat went up the tree, He looked to see what he could see. Just then an owl flew into sight, Gave Gus the cat a terrible fright.

So down went Gus, this cat striped red.

Ran into the house and under the bed.

He licked his paws until he saw,

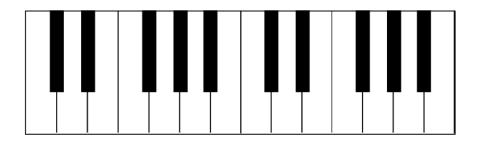
A mouse, a mouse, a mouse he saw!

So around and over and under the bed, He chased the mouse whose name was Fred. But Fred was quick, a fast retreat, and Gus was left with nothing to eat!





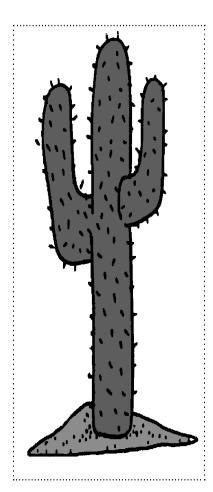
- Dramatize the poem with puppets.
- Improvise black-key patterns between phrases.
- Add a speech ostinato.



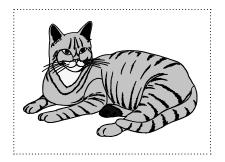


Augustus the Cat

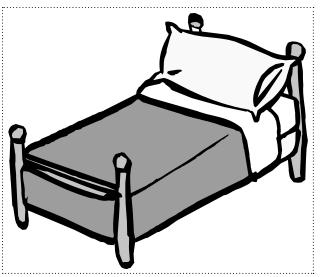
- 1 Cut out the stick puppets below. Glue them to long sticks or tape them to your fingers.
- **2** Create puppet movements to dramatize the poem.

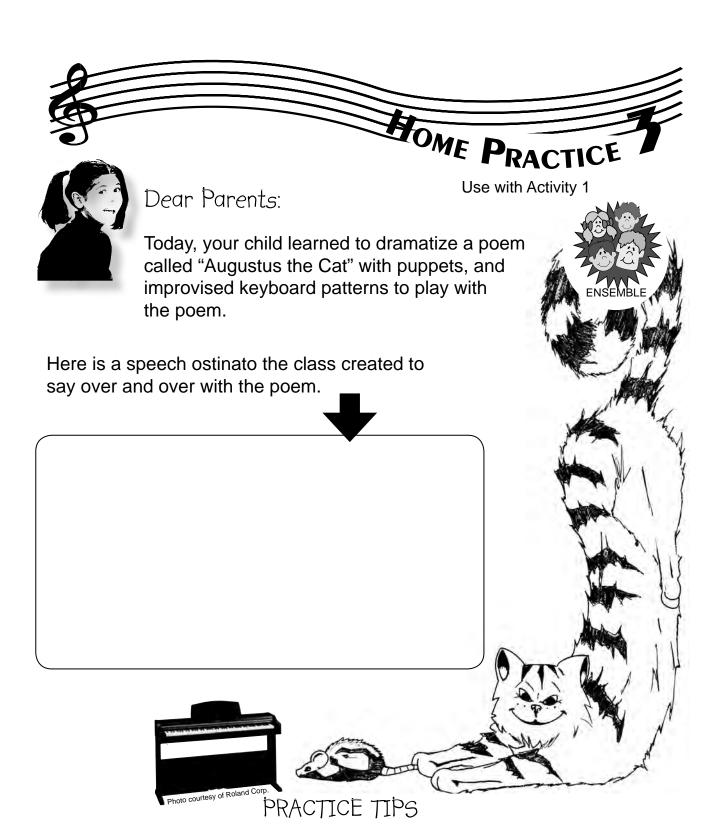












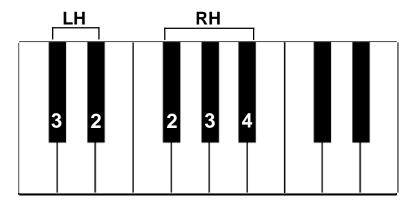
STEP I: Ask someone at home to say the poem with the recording while you improvise patterns on the black keys.

STEP 2: Play a different pattern during the blank spaces after each line of the poem.

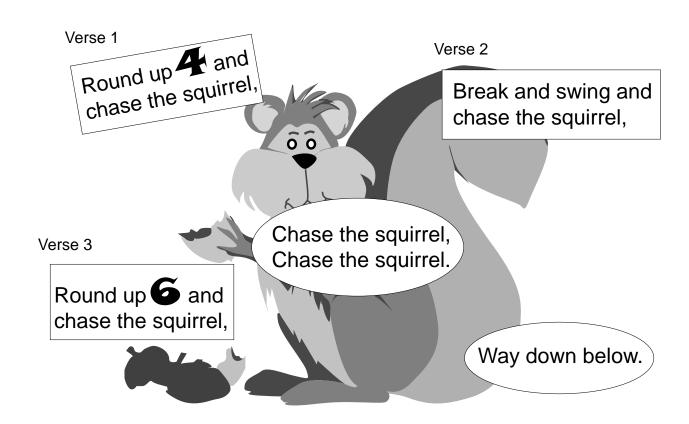


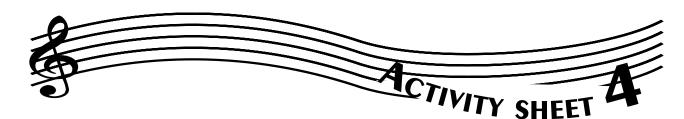
CHASE THE SQUIRREL

- Sing the song and play the game.
- Move your hand up or down to show the melody.
- Point to the keys you will play for each melody pattern.



Which two phrases are the same?

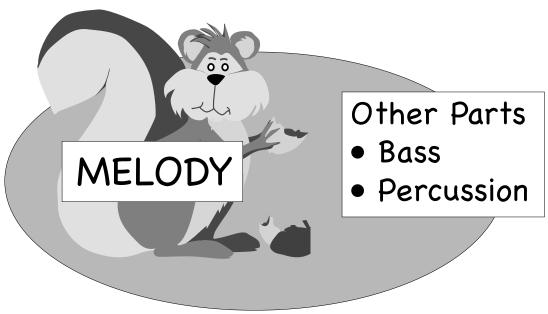




CHASE THE SQUIRREL

Point to the different parts you hear in this song.



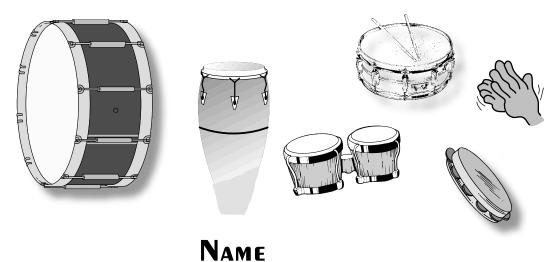


- Add a percussion part to this song.

 Find the instrument sounds below on your keyboard.

 Choose a LOWER sounding instrument to play on Beats 1 and 3. Circle it.

 Choose a HIGHER sounding instrument to play on Beats 2 and 4. Box it.
- Play your boom-chuck part with the melody.

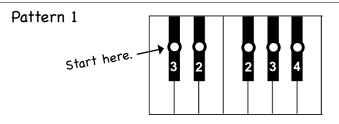




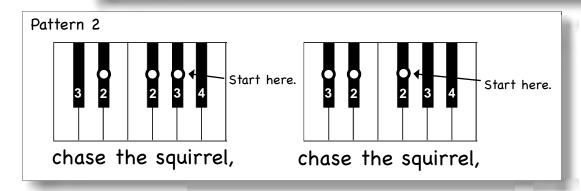
Dear Parents:

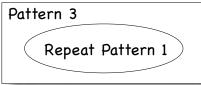
Use with Activity 1

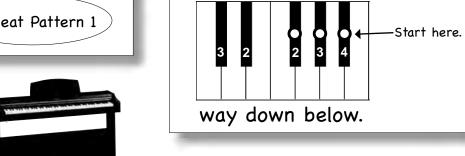
Today, your child learned to perform a movement game and to play "Chase the Squirrel." Each verse has 4 patterns.



Verse 1. Round up four and chase the squirrel,





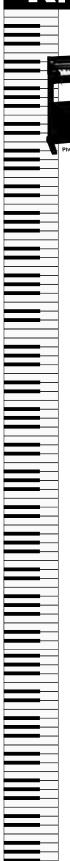


Pattern 4

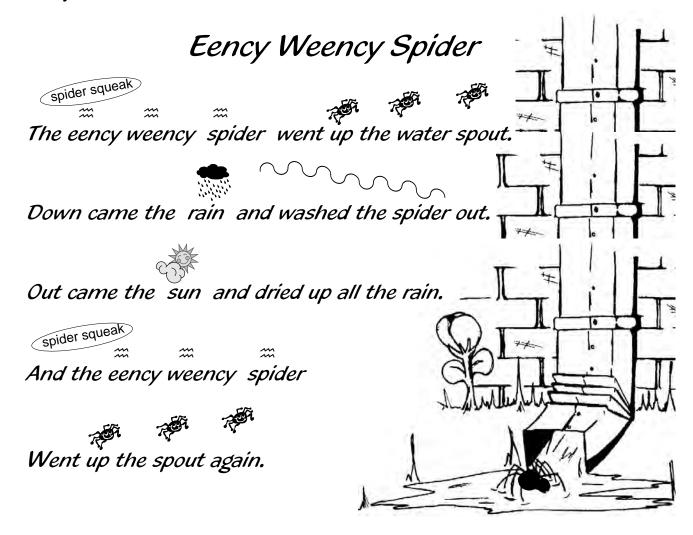
Photo courtesy of Roland Corp PRACTICE TIPS

First, sing with the recording to review the song. STEP 1:

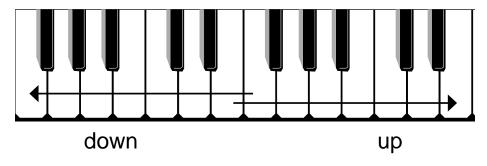
Follow the keyboard pictures to play each pattern as you sing. STEP 2:

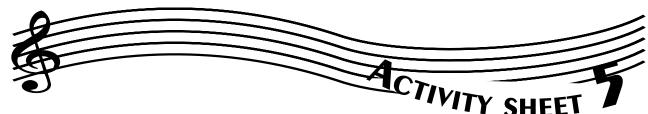


- Sing the song. Learn the finger-play.
- Choose an instrument to play the beat.
- Play in an ensemble.

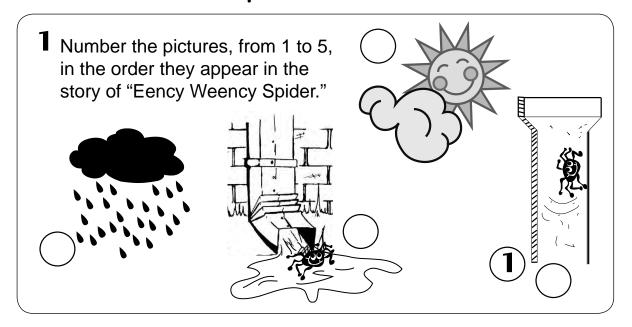


 Play some keys up and down the keyboard to sound like the spider.

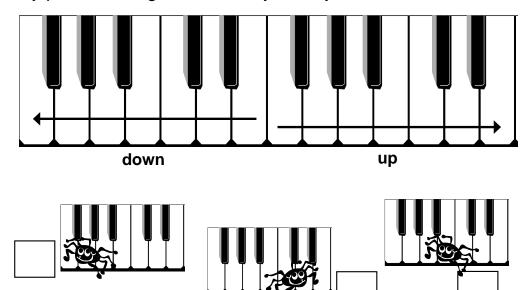




Eency Weency Spider

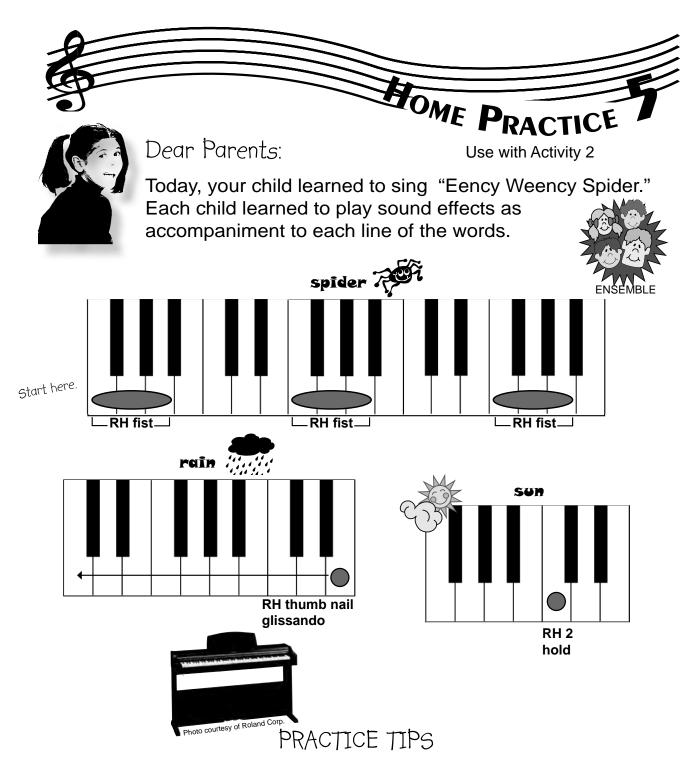


Play pitches that go UP on your keyboard. Play pitches that go DOWN on your keyboard.



Which way are the spiders crawling? Up or down?
Write the letter U or D in the blank beside each spider.

Name



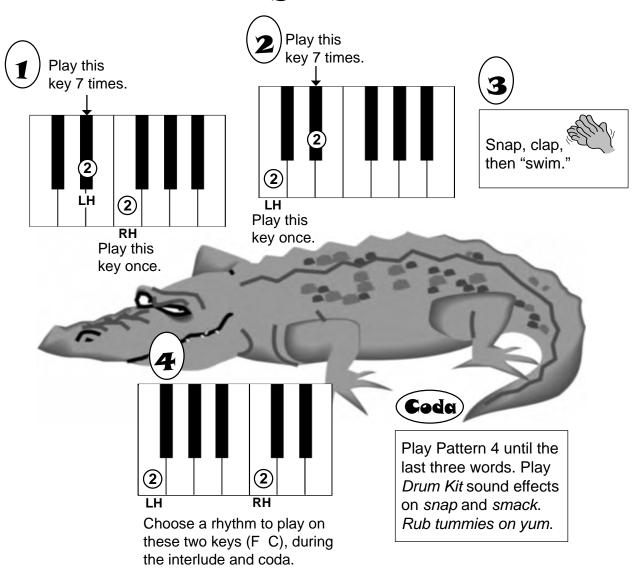
STEP I: Play the 3-key clusters with a fist when the spider goes up and down the spout. Start low and play higher each time to go up; start high and play lower each time to go down.

- STEP 2: Play the glissando down with the thumb nail to show the rain.
- STEP 3: Play and hold the key marked above to sound like the sun.



- Sing the song. Find the *snap*, *smack*, and *yum* words.
- Play a boom-chuck accompaniment.
- Decide when to play each pattern below.

Five Big Crocodiles



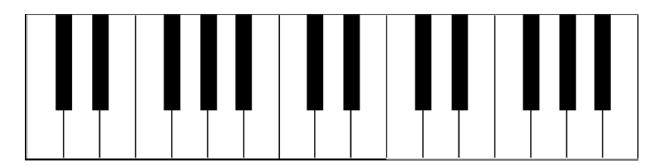
• Sing and play this song in an ensemble.

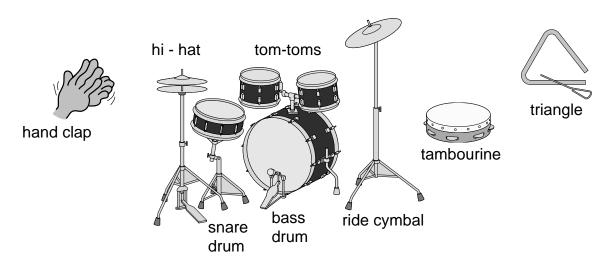




Five Big Crocodiles

- Your teacher will help you set your keyboard to play *Drum Kit*. Play each key to hear it's NEW percussion sound.
- **2** Draw a line from the instrument pictures to the keys they match.





7 Write the name of the sound effect your group will play for each word.



NAME



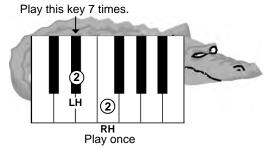
Dear Parents:

Use with Activity 2

Today, your child learned to play melody patterns along with a percussion accompaniment to the song, "Five Big Crocodiles."



Five big crocodiles swimmin' in the swamp, Five big crocodiles swimmin' in



Play this key 7 times. LH Play once.

One went snap, the other went smack,

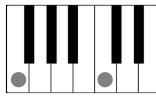
Five big crocodiles swimmin' in the swamp.

Snap and clap on the words snap and smack.



Make "swimming" motions with your hands.



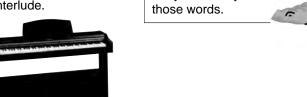


Choose a rhythm to play on these two keys (F C) during the interlude.

Coda

Play the interlude pattern until the last 3 words. Snap, clap, and rub your tummy on

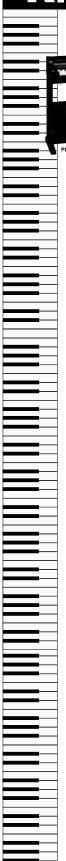
Snap! Smack! Yum!



PRACTICE TIPS

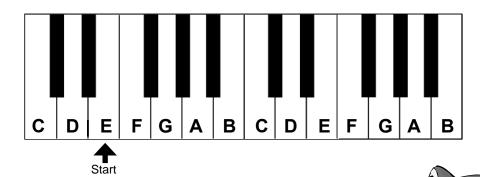
STEP 1: Sing the song with the recording first.

Practice each pattern above, then identify each pattern as STEP 2: you listen to the song. Sing and play the patterns together.



ESSON

- Learn a singing game.
- Review the names of the white keys.
- Learn the symbol for a rest.



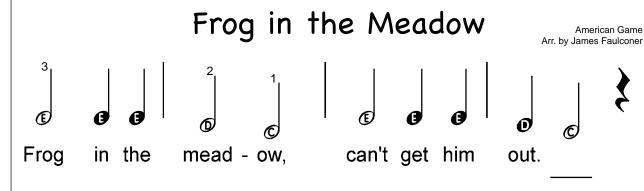
A NEW REST

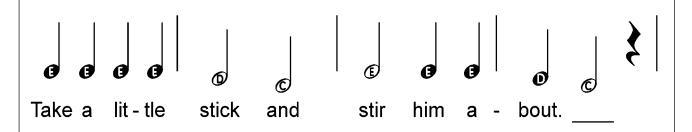
American Game

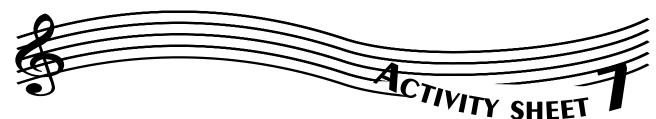
This is a quarter rest.

= 1 beat

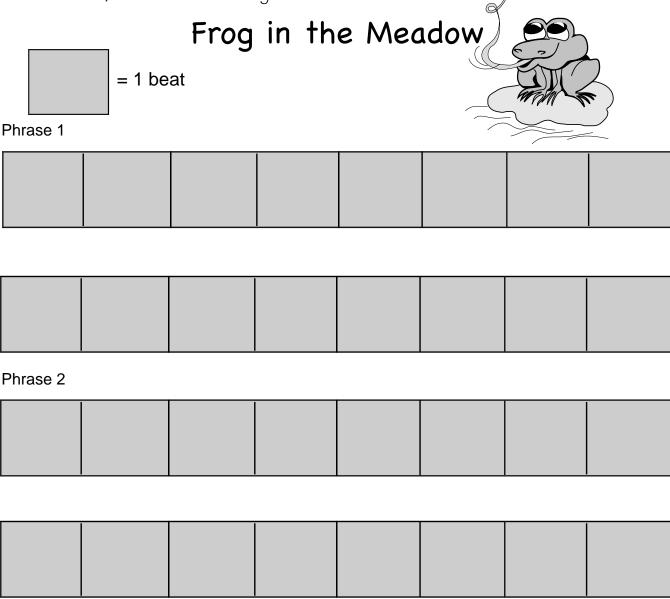
• Read and play this song. Find the steps in the melody.







- Sing the song, tracking across 2 lines of the beat grid per phrase.
- **2** Clap both phrases, then identify which beats have sound or no sound, and where the long sounds are held over two beats.



Place a RED cuisenaire rod over the beat boxes to show 1 sound per beat. Place a PURPLE cuisenaire rod over two beat boxes to show a long sound. Leave a beat box blank to show a rest.

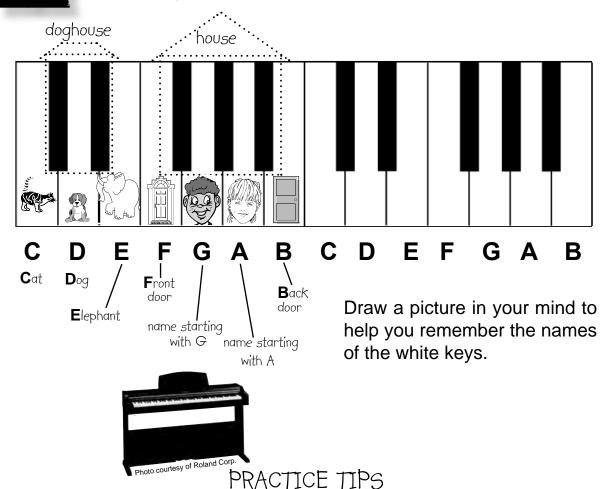
NAME	



Dear Parents:

Use with Activity 1

Today, your child learned white-key names and learned to play "Frog in the Meadow" on white keys.

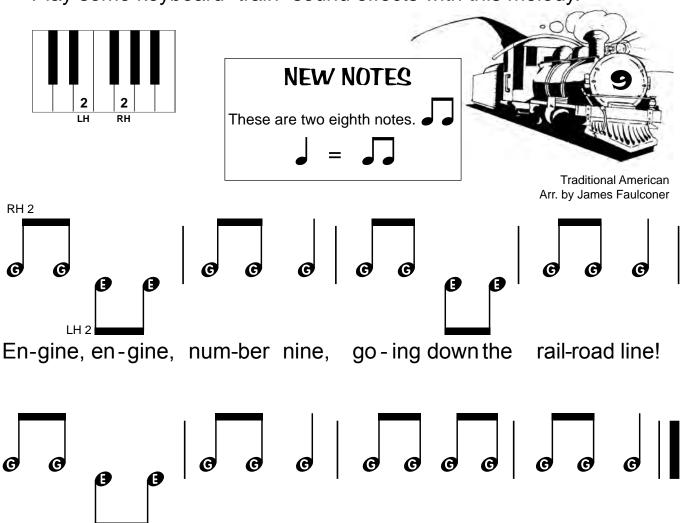


- STEP 1: Say and clap the rhythm of the words first, then sing the song with the recording.
- Place right hand fingers 3, 2, and thumb (1) on the E, D, and C STEP 2: keys. Read and play from the notation in Lesson 7, page 29.
- STEP 3: Place left hand fingers 1, 2, and 3 on the E, D, and C keys an octave below. Play the same melody as you sing the song.



Engine, Engine, Number Nine

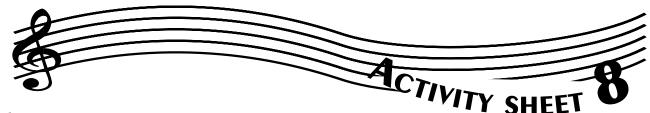
- Discuss how sound effects make music more fun.
- Play some keyboard "train" sound effects with this melody.



If the train goes off the track, Will I get my mon-ey back?



• Create movement to show the tempo and sections of these famous piano pieces.



- 1 Help create a sound story for "Engine, Engine, Number Nine."
- **2** Fill in the blanks in each story scene below. Play the melody for each scene using different playing tempos.

SCENE 1

One morning, our class met at the train station to take a train to	
The train pulled out, the blew, and the	
train rolled	
down the track.	
Play and sing the song	
slow or fast	

SCENE 2

The train began to go faster as it passed
and
Play and sing the song
getting or getting faster slower

SCENE 3

After our	trip, we saw our last stop ahead!
The train began to	
Play and sing the song slowing down or speeding up	

Name _____



Dear Parents:

Use with Activity 2

Today, your child danced in different tempos to *Old French Song* and *The Wild Rider*, then created a sound story by changing playing tempos in "Engine, Engine, Number Nine."

Old French Song was written by Peter Tchaikovsky (1840-1893), and The Wild Rider, was written by Robert Schumann (1810-1856).

Peter Tchaikovsky is probably the most famous of all the Russian composers. He started piano lessons when he was five, and began serious studies as a composer when he was a young man. During his life, he wrote six symphonies, works for piano, and ballets, *Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker Suite*, and *Swan Lake*.

Old French Song was written for

children to play on the piano.

Robert Schumann was born in Germany. He began to study the piano and write music when he was only six. As a young man, Schumann decided to become a concert pianist and composer. *The Wild Rider* was written for a children's album.





PRACTICE TIPS

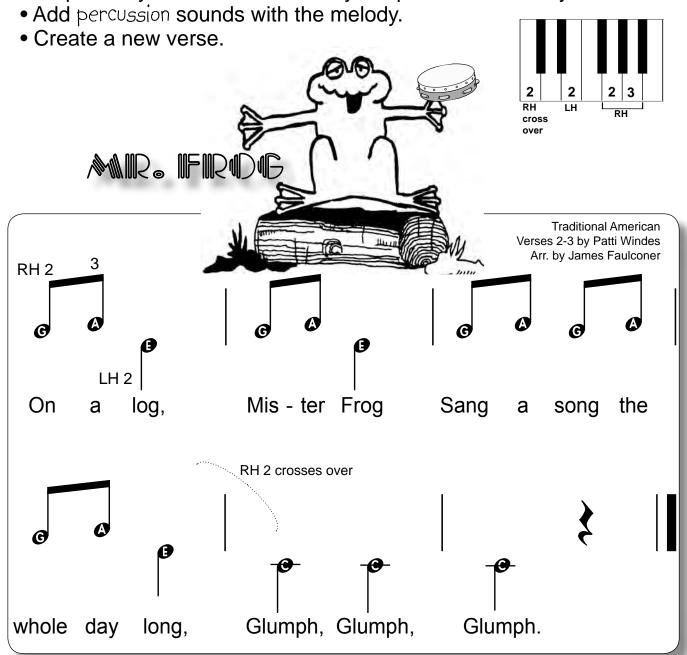
STEP I: Read the biographies of both famous composers to your child.

STEP 2: Perform the movement for both pieces.

STEP 3: Tell the story on Activity Sheet 8 and play "Engine, Engine, Number Nine" as accompaniment to the story.



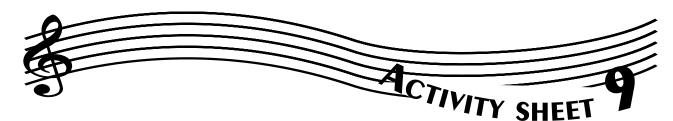
• Clap the rhythm of the words. Say the pitch names in rhythm.



Mrs. Rat, caught a gnat, Because she couldn't catch the cat! Tst, Tst, tst.

WIERSIE 5

Bee-Bop Bear, combed his hair, In polka-dotted underwear. Roar, roar, roar.

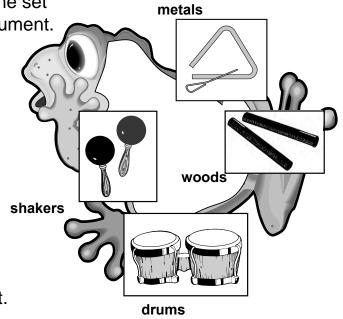


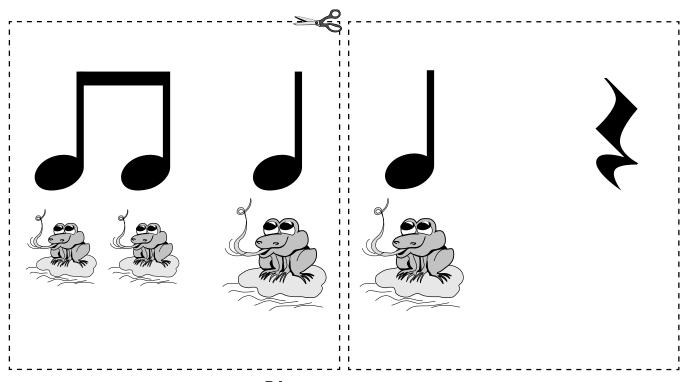
Choose one group of instruments to play with the rhyming words of each verse in "Mr. Frog."

2 Draw a line from the instrument to the set of words you will play with that instrument.

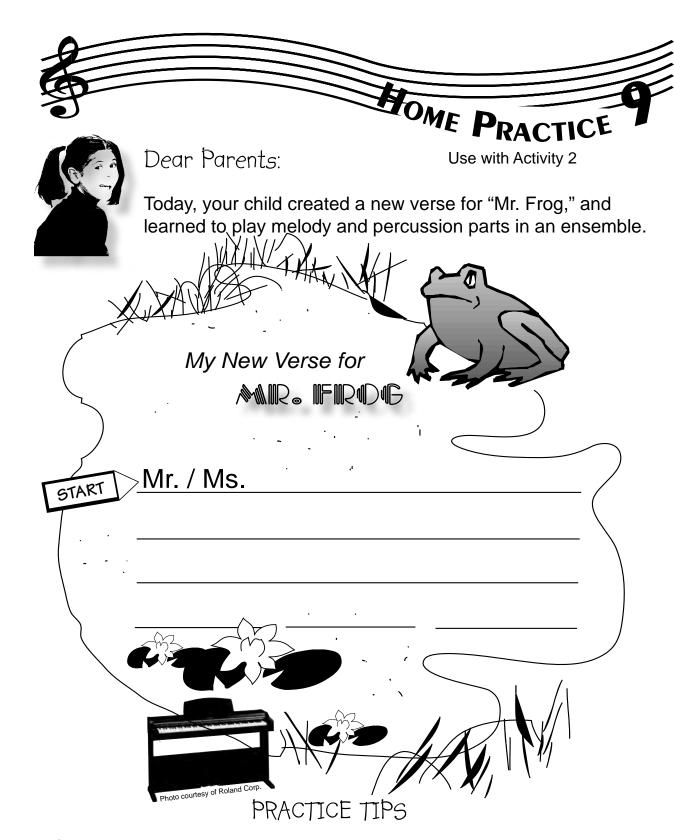
frog	log	long
rat	gnat	cat
bear	hair und	derwear

7 Choose a classmate to hold up one card at a time to cue movement.





Name ____



STEP I: Read and play this song from the notation on page 37.

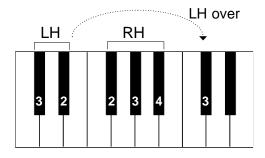
STEP 2: Don't forget to use two hands and cross the right hand over to play the last three C notes.

I helped my child practice today.

39



- Sing a song about friends.
- Sing a part, then pat-clap a part.
- Play a part, then pat-clap a part.
- Play in ensemble.





I Wanna Be a Friend of Yours

PARTI

I wanna be friend of yours, ∠I wanna be a bumble bee I wanna mean a lot to you,

PART 2

1. I wanna be a friend of yours, mmmm and a little bit more. mmmm and a little bit more. buzzing 'round your door. mmmm and a little bit. mmmm and a little bit, mmmm and a whole lot more!

2. Oh, you are a friend of mine, mmmm and a little bit more. You are a friend of mine. You are a bumble bee You mean a lot to me,

mmmm and a little bit more. buzzing 'round my door. mmmm and a little bit. mmmm and a little bit, mmmm and a whole lot more!



After you have learned to play the entire song, create 3 groups of players: Friends, Bumble Bees, and Little Bits.

2 Play the phrases shown below.

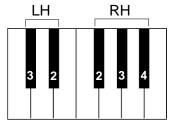


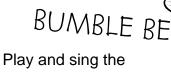


FRIENDS

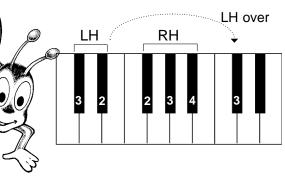
Play and sing the

1st phrase.





2nd phrase.

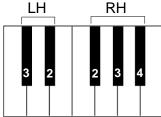




TLE BITS

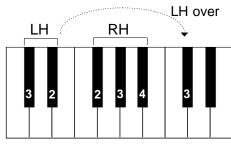
Play and sing the

3rd phrase.



ALL GROUPS

Play and sing the LAST phrase. Is this phrase longer?



7 Circle the two phrases that use the same keys. Draw an arrow to the two phrases that have a LH cross-over.

Name	



Use with Activity 1

LH

RH

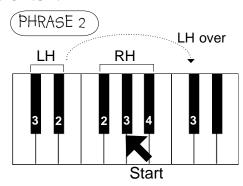


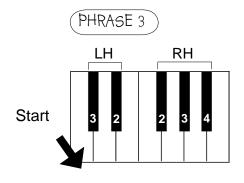
Dear Parents:

Your child has learned to play "I Wanna Be a Friend of Yours," by ear, and learned to improvise black-key patterns on the interlude.

Here's a fun way to play this song. Have your child play Phrase 1 PART I, then you create a body percussion pattern to fit the rhythm of the words in PART 2. Start

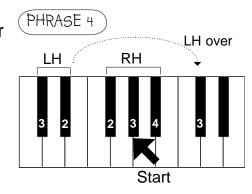
Repeat the instructions above for the next two lines of text.





Your child plays Phrase 4. You answer with a longer PAT-CLAP pattern.





PRACTICE TIPS

STEP I: Sing the song first. Then play Phrase I and perform body percussion for PAT-CLAP parts.

Glossary of musical terms

body percussion rhythm patterns of long and short sounds and silences that are played on the

body (clapping hands, tapping feet, patting legs, snapping fingers)

boom-chuck standard percussion rhythm, usually with bass drum playing on Beats 1 and 3,

and snare drum playing the "backbeat" on beats 2 and 4

coda a short ending section of a song

dynamics the loudness or softness of a musical tone or sound

echo-say or sing children echo-say or echo-sing what the teacher speaks or sing

finger play a dramatization created with the fingers and hands

improvise to create a musical pattern, by ear, without reading notation inner hearing thinking a rhythm or melody in musical time without singing it

interlude an instrumental section between the verses of a song

keyboard *Drum Kit* a setting that changes each key to a different percussion sound

keyboard "Voice" a keyboard setting for a variety of instrumental sounds or tone colors

melodic direction the pitch direction of melody from one note to the next (up, down, or same)

melody patterns of long and short pitches that make up a tune

move to show chilfdren moving to show a musical concept

ostinato a rhythmic or melodic pattern that repeats over and over

pat / clap a pattern of body percussion. Children pat knees then clap their hands.

phrase a complete musical thought, like the phrases of a song

pitch the highness or lowness of a sound

rhythm a pattern of long and short sounds and silences without pitch; the rhythm of the

words or the rhythm of a melody

steady beat the basic unit of time in music. The steady beat is always even.

steps, **skips** steps: pitch direction from one note to the next closest note (half step), or

to the next closest note with one note in between (whole step) skips: the

interval of a minor or major 3rd

tempo how slow or fast a musical pattern or song is performed

timbre / tone color the individual sound of an instrument, patch or voice