



Creative Music Room

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When I'm in Music Class

K-5th Grade

Description

"When I'm in Music Class" is an opening chant that transforms classroom routines into a fun, music community-building activity. Rather than simply reviewing rules, students practice steady beat, listening, sequencing, and memory while building a shared set of Music Community Promises.

Designed for the first two weeks of school, this activity takes just 5–8 minutes at the beginning of each class. Students gradually learn new Music Community Cards, creating a classroom routine that can be revisited throughout the entire school year.

Materials

- Printable Music Community Cards - print double-sided
- Suggested Music Community Promises

Setup

Choose the number of Music Community Cards that are appropriate for your students and place them picture-side up where everyone can see them.

- K–2: Begin with 3–5 cards.
- Grades 3–5: Begin with 5–7 cards.

Directions

Have students sit in a circle and tap a steady beat on their laps throughout the activity.

Begin the Chant

Tap your lap,

Nice and slow.

Listen close,

Here we go...

When I'm in music class, I'll...

Point to the picture of a Music Community Card, such as "Use Kind Words". The class says the matching Music Community Promise aloud.

Add one new card each round, with students repeating all previous promises before adding the newest one.

Sample Sequence

(Everyone taps a steady beat or rhythmic pattern on their laps.)

Teacher

Tap your lap,

Nice and slow.

Listen close,

Here we go...

When I'm in music class, I'll...

Student 1

Raise my hand when I have a question.

(Everyone continues tapping the steady beat.)



Teacher

When I'm in music class, I'll...

Student 2

Raise my hand when I have a question
and
Keep my hands to myself.

Teacher

When I'm in music class, I'll...

Student 3

Raise my hand when I have a question
Keep my hands to myself
and
Use my singing voice.
(Continue around the circle.)

Each student repeats all of the previous Music Community Promises before adding one new promise.

Building Your Music Community

Spend 5–8 minutes on this at the beginning of each music class during the first two weeks of school.

Each class, review the Music Community Cards your students already know before introducing 3–5 new cards. As students become more confident, they'll strengthen their listening, sequencing, memory, steady beat, and teamwork.

By the end of two weeks:

- K–2: Students will know approximately 10 Music Community Cards.
- Grades 3–5: Students will know all 19 Music Community Cards.



Once students know the cards, continue using them throughout the year with the games and rhythm extensions below.

Suggested Music Community Promises (Cards with graphics below)

Invite students to brainstorm ways they can help create a music room that is kind, respectful, welcoming, and fun. If they need a little inspiration, here are a few ideas.

- Raise my hand when I have a question.
- Keep my hands to myself.
- Use kind words.
- Try my best.
- Sing with confidence.
- Listen when others are speaking.
- Take care of the instruments.
- Return instruments carefully.
- Freeze when the music stops.
- Keep a steady beat.
- Encourage my classmates.
- Participate with a positive attitude.
- Follow directions the first time.
- Respect everyone's ideas.
- Help clean up.
- Use my singing voice.
- Keep my body in my own space.
- Be brave enough to make mistakes.
- Have fun making music.

Music Community Games

1 - What's Missing?

Once students have learned the Music Community Cards and can match each picture to its promise, secretly remove one card.



Can the class identify which Music Community Promise is missing?

As students become more confident, remove two or even three cards for an extra challenge.

2 - Rhythm Challenge

Replace the steady lap tap with different body percussion patterns.

Try:

- Pat–Clap
- Pat–Snap–Clap
- Stomp–Pat–Clap
- Clap only
- Knee Pat–Clap
- Create your own classroom rhythm pattern!

Build Your Own Promise

Invite students to think of another promise that would help create a welcoming, respectful music room.

Have the class vote on their favorites and create a new Music Community Card to add to your collection.

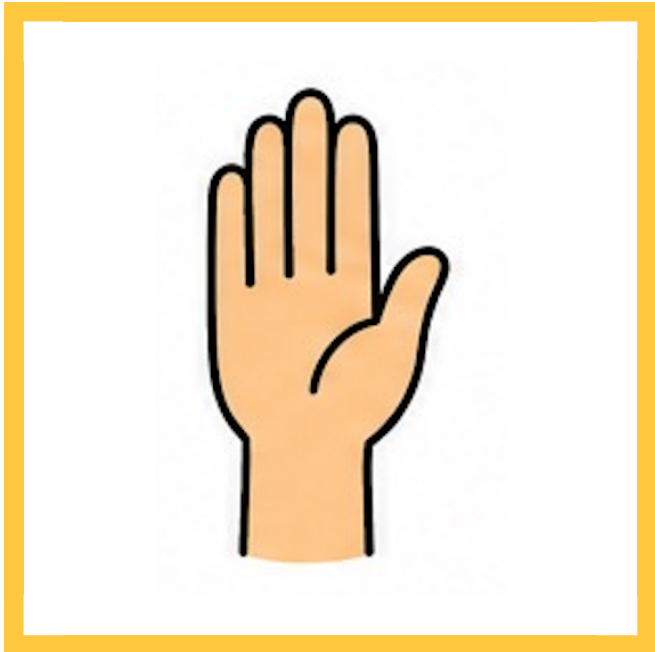
Reflection

Before ending class, ask students:

- Which Music Community Promise do you think is the most important? Why?
- Which promise do you think helps us become better musicians?
- Which promise will you work on today?

Invite a few students to share before ending class.







Keep my hands
to myself.



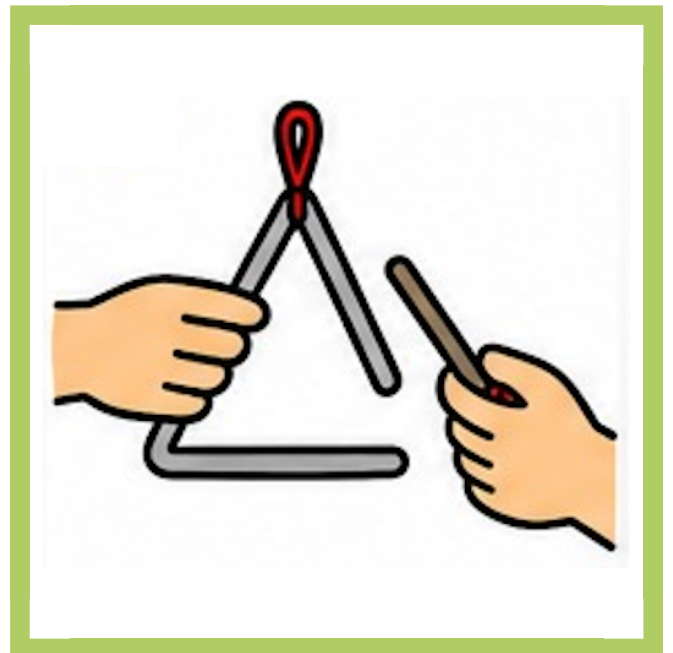
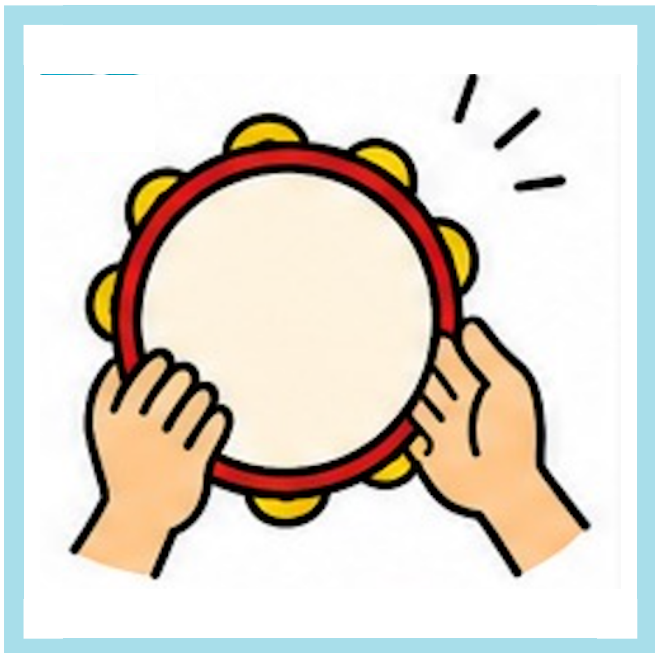
Raise my hand
when I have a
question.



Try my best.



Use kind
words.



**Listen when
others are
speaking.**

**Sing with
confidence.**

**Return
instruments
carefully.**

**Take care of
instruments.**

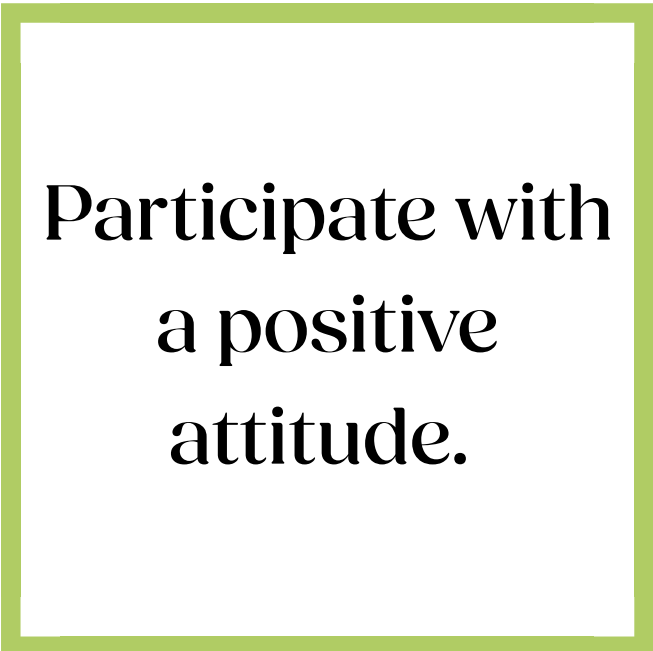




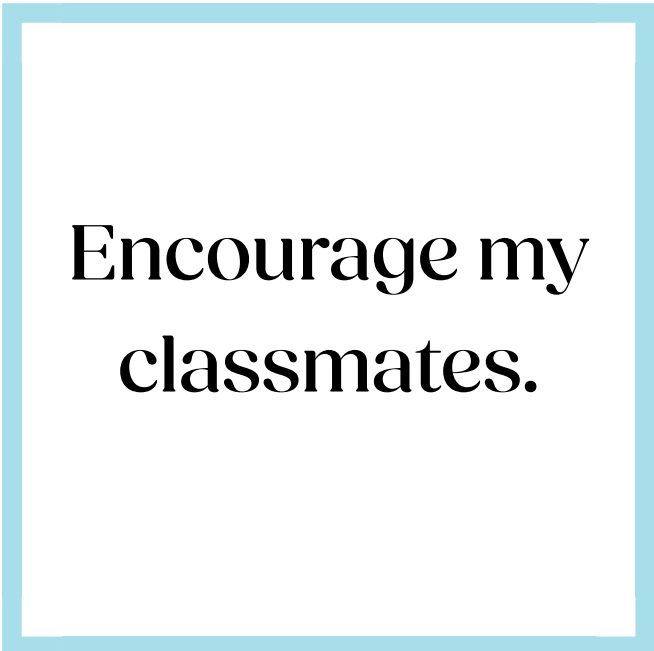
**Keep a steady
beat.**



**Freeze when
the music
stops.**



**Participate with
a positive
attitude.**



**Encourage my
classmates.**

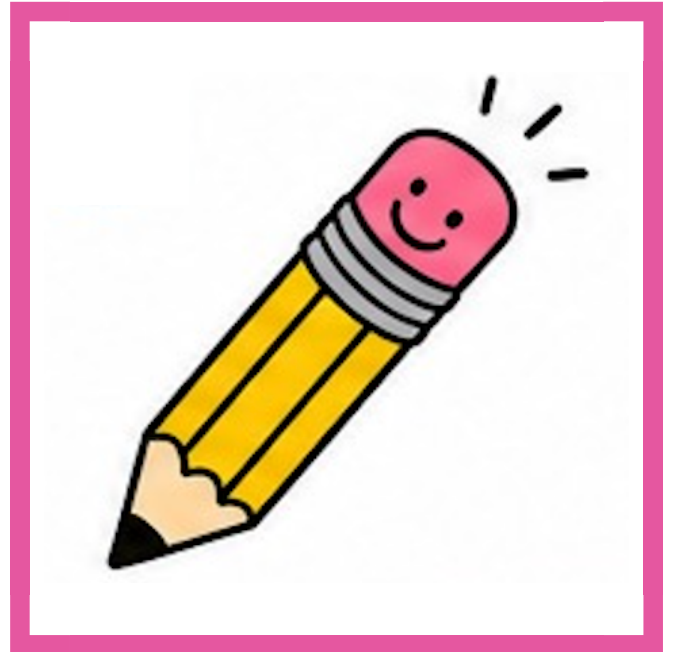


**Respect
everyone's
ideas.**

**Follow the
directions the
first time.**

**Use my
singing voice.**

Help clean up.



**Be brave
enough to
make
mistakes.**

**Keep my body
in my own
space.**

**Have fun
making music.**