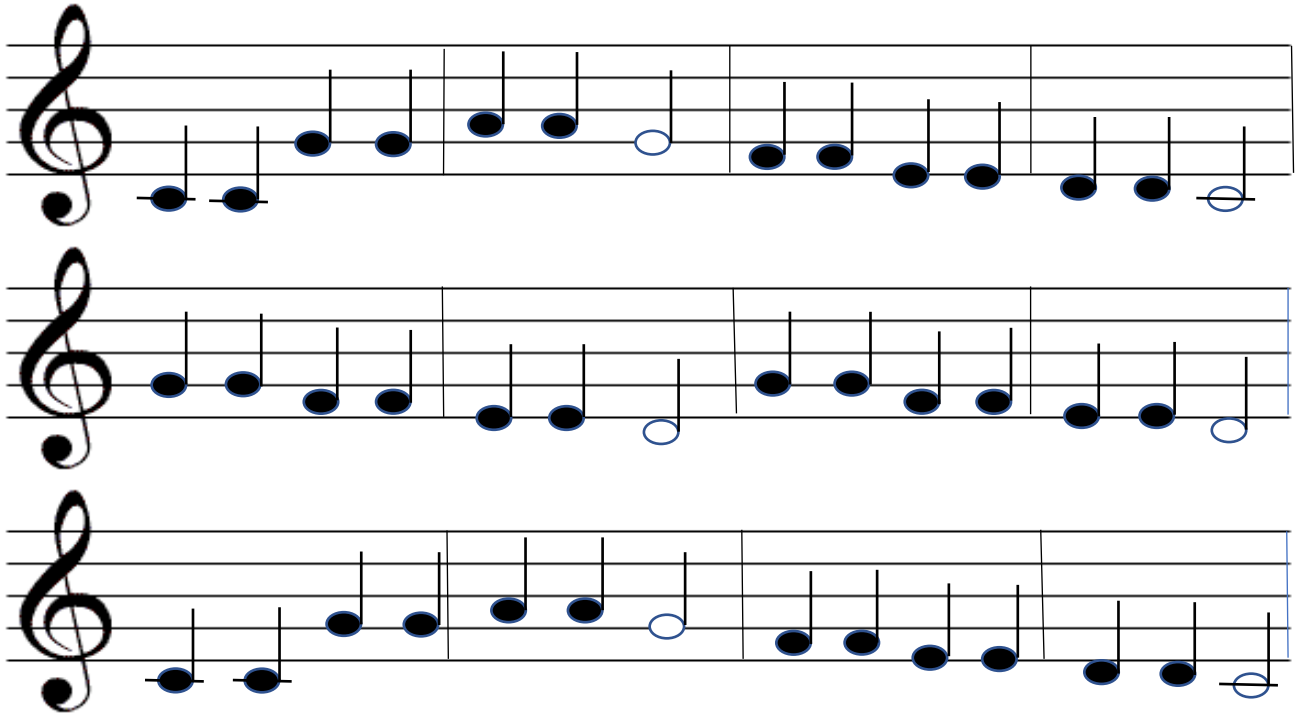


Kindergarten Elements of Music

“Twinkle Little Star” is a good song to introduce the elements of Music to Kindergarteners. It’s simple, and it’s the basis of the ABC song.



Other songs can be learned with the same experiences:

These exercises can be divided into as many lessons as needed.

1. Rhythm & Tempo—fast and slow beats.

--Start a smooth rhythm of clapping.

--Sing or say the words to “Twinkle Little Star” to the rhythm of the clapping (note that in 4 places you hold the note for 2 claps/beats)

--repeat until the children “get it”

--try it going faster and slower

2. Melody—high and low pitches

--Teacher demonstrates leading “Twinkle Little Star” by indicating the relative highs and lows of the melody (start with hand held palm down, chest high and indicate the first 2 notes with short outward motions. Next move hand to eye level and do similarly for the next two notes. Move hand to forehead level for the next two notes. Show the succeeding notes as

though they are coming down a staircase, and so forth). Have the children sing while they move their hands in the same way. Practice until they “get it”.

3. Variations on the theme “Twinkle Little Star”

--sing louder and softer (can be done as a game for finding something: when the seeker gets close, sing louder, when far away, sing softer)

--sing the notes like drips dropping (quick short notes)

--sing the notes long, drawn out

--sing like a bee, like a dog howling, like a kitten meowing, like a bird chirping, a hen clucking, an opera star, a cowboy, boys sing, girls sing...

4. Patterns

--Pass out the musical notation of “Twinkle Little Star”, note the patterns. See how they are repeated. Draw a circle around the first 2 measures in red (first half of first line). Find where it is repeated, and circle that also in red. Draw a circle around the 2nd two measures in blue (second half of the first line). Find where it is repeated, and circle that in blue as well. Circle the first two measures of the 2nd line in green (the first half of the line). Find where the pattern is repeated, and circle it in green, too.

--One person claps or beats any pattern and others try to repeat it. This can be done as teams.

--One person sings a melody/phrase, others repeat it.

--Play “Simon Sings” or “Sing as I’m Singing”

5. Timbre

--listen to different instruments playing “Twinkle Little Star”

6. Sing “Twinkle Little Star”, the ABC song. How are they alike?

How are they different?

7. Play “Name that Tune” or “Name that Instrument”