

Culturally Responsive Education

Musicplay is a PreK-Middle School elementary music curriculum that uses many traditional and composed children's songs, singing games, folk songs, rounds, choral music, and listening examples. The development of Musicplay started in 1995, was first published in 2000, and has had many updates since then. When Denise Gagne first chose songs for the program, there was no Google to research the history of these songs.

As we have updated Musicplay we have been researching, consulting with culture bearers, and making changes to song content to ensure that our materials resonate with all students. Some songs have had word changes, some have been removed completely, and some songs have been replaced with newly composed or other traditional songs that teach the same concepts.

If there are other songs or rhymes that you feel should be added to this list, please email support@musicplay.ca. We welcome your input into the process of making Musicplay equitable to all.

We are also working on re-designing the concept slides and the lyrics videos in Musicplay. We will strive to ensure that all educators and students are able to see themselves in our content. We love it when our teachers send us kids demo videos of their students playing games and singing songs. We encourage teachers to send videos of activities as well. One of our favorite videos was a teacher using the rhythm play-along videos in a drumming class. The demographic that you teach in may be different than what you see in the original kids' demos. We want to respond to all on MusicplayOnline and allow all kids to see themselves in the videos. We've had videos from Ecuador, Vietnam, all over the USA and Canada --- and encourage you to send us more! See the help.musicplay.ca for submission guidelines.

At Musicplay, we are responsive to the needs of our students and educators. We are excited about changing, improving, and updating this program!

- The Musicplay Team
Author & Editor of Musicplay and MusicplayOnline

Musicplay PreK

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Three Little Monkeys	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replaced with 2. Three Little Fishies
Poppies Red	Lyrics did not reference different branches of the military.	Lyrics replaced to reference different branches of the military.
African Drums	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed from the song list
Spider on the Floor	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replacing "dummy" with "crummy"
On My Toe	Lyrics mention killing bees.	Creating a concept slide to promote a discussion around the declining bee population.

Musicplay Kindergarten

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
A Boy and a Girl in a Canoe*	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed
London Bridge*	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Adding a disclaimer

Musicplay Grade 1

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Lucy Locket*	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Offering option of 37. Peter Rabbit
Pussywillow	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed

Musicplay Grade 2

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Okkitokiunga	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replaced with 7. Paddle in my Kayak
I've Been Working on the Railroad	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed
Icka Backa*	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Offering alternate option: 20a. We Like Playing Games Together
Do Your Ears Hang Low?	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replaced with the new song, "Tap it Here."
Boom Boom Ain't it Great to Be Crazy	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Changing the word "crazy" to silly
The Cat Came Back	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replaced with the new song, "My Cat Boo"
Ain't Gonna Rain no More	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Changing the lyrics.
Salish Hand Game	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed from the Song List

Musicplay Grade 3

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Three Blind Mice	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed
I'm an Acorn	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed but will rewrite.
In the Land of Oz	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replacing the cigar verse with new lyrics.
Cindy	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replacing it with 51. Double Double
Austrian Went Yodeling	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replaced inappropriate verses with new lyrics.
Dinah	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replaced with 70. "Playing in the House"
Chicken on the Fencepost	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replaced with 95. "Chicken in the Barnyard"
Missus Tong	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Updated lyrics.
Indian Summer	Misinformed about the origins of the music	We will create an "About the Song" concept slide to discuss the weather phenomena.
Inuit Lullaby	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed from the Song List

Musicplay Grade 4

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Okkitokiunga	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replacing with 7. Paddle in my Kayak
Land of the Silver Birch	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replaced with "This is my Home".
Two Canadian Folk Songs	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Rewriting with "This is my Home" instead of "Land of the Silver Birch"
Huron Carol*	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed.
My Gal's a Corker*	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Adding a disclaimer.*
Yankee Doodle Stick Game*	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Adding a disclaimer.*
Nobody Likes Me	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed
Old Dan Tucker	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed. Replacing with "Pay me my Money Down"
Pack the Sleigh	Lyrics included outdated references.	Updating lyrics.
Camping Song	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Re-written lyrics.
Forty Below	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed.
African Drumming	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed from the song list

Musicplay Grade 5

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Whistle Daughter	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed the last 2 verses.
Lady in the Graveyard*	Morbid.	Adding a disclaimer.*
Ho Ho Watanay	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed from the song list
Banks of the Don*	Adult themes.	Adding a disclaimer.*
Five Foot Two	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replaced with 51. Weevily Wheat
Tom Dooley	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed.
I Am Slowly Going Crazy	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replaced with 72. I Am Getting Such a Headache
John Kanaka*	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	will add a disclaimer*
Drunken Sailor	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replaced with 83. Silly Sailor
5/4 Groove	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replaced offensive word with "tinga."
'Neath the Lilacs	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Replaced offensive word with "tinga."
Green Sally Up	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Create a concept slide about the song origins.
African Drumming	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed from the song list

Musicplay Grade 6

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Hagdalen	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed
Mary Mac	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed
Missus Murphy's Chowder	Outdated	Removed
Gypsy Rover	Misinformed about the origins of the music	Removed
Tell My Ma	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Removed
Rufus Rustus	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Removed

Recorder Resource

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Lucy Locket	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Replacing it with 37. Peter Rabbit
Ho Ho Watanay	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Removed.
"C" you in Dixie	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Replaced it with 23. "C" you in Canada
Camptown Races	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Replaced it with 38. Funga Alafia

Guitar Resource

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
In the Land of Oz	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replacing the cigar verse with new lyrics.
Land of the Silver Birch	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Replace with "This is my Home"
Three Blind Mice	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removing.
Cotton Eyed Joe	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Removing.
Whistle Daughter	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Removing the last 2 verses.
Drunken Sailor	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Replacing with 83. Silly Sailor
Tom Dooley	Lyrics included words that might be inappropriate for some students.	Removed.

Boomwhacker Resource

Song title	Reason	Musicplay's Action
Oh Susanna	Misinformed about the origins of the music.	Removed.