

Kindermusik: Learning Through Music

Level 3: Make Believe

Lesson Focus: Sequencing

You don't need to live where it snows to appreciate the fine art of bundling up a young child to go out in it. First, the long johns, pants, and shirt. Then the socks and sweater. Last, come the snow boots, jacket, scarf, hat, and mittens (where *is* that other mitten?). Finally, it's time to play outside, right? Well, no. Inevitably, after all that, a child will need to go to the bathroom. Parents quickly learn to take a potty break first or the whole process will need to be repeated. Order does matter!

For children, learning to follow a certain order of events does more than protect them from the weather. "Sequencing" or being able to break down a task into steps from first to last, helps your child successfully go to the potty, get dressed, tell a joke, complete a math problem, and even comprehend a story. Plus, breaking down a task—like getting ready for bed—into steps (bath, pajamas, brush teeth, brush hair, etc.) gives your child practice in self-management, which reduces frustration. In class, we provide lots of sequencing opportunities. So, when your child does the Pirates Treasure Dance or plays with the Five Shiny Gold coins, you know your little one is also practicing sequencing!

Everyday Connection: 1-2-3 Helps Me! Getting your child ready to go anywhere can be challenging at times. Break the task down for your little one into three key steps. Take a picture of your child completing each step. Make a sign to help your child remember those three key steps each time!