



The Progression Of Cognitive Skills by Age

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Attention

Levels 0 and 1: Ages 0-24 months

- Can direct attention to features of songs, pictures, or the general environment with optional care provider assistance.
- Can direct attention to changes in patterns or surprises.
- Can recognize and attend to cues to switch activities with strong care provider and instructor support.
- Can recognize cues to start and stop an action, and can wait through delays, such as a ritardando, to begin an action when cued with care provider and instructor support.

Levels 2 and 3: Ages 2-3

- Can direct attention to repeated patterns in music, including beat and rhythm.
- Can wait for cues to start or stop activities, and can wait through longer delays, with optional care provider or instructor assistance.
- Can recognize and make use of cues within ongoing music or activities, with optional care provider or instructor assistance.
- Can use cues to switch activities, with optional care provider or instructor assistance.

Levels 4-6: Ages 4-6

- Can inhibit musical responses during audiation, with instructor assistance.
- Can attend to a student or instructor conductor.
- Can isolate individual musical features, such as rhythm or pitch.
- Can focus on notated music and follow along as it is presented.
- Can begin to hold focus on their own part of the musical performance, including singing, playing, and moving, even in the face of distractions, such as in canon or ostinato performances, with instructor support.

Memory

Levels 0 and 1: Ages 0-24 months

- Can recognize when the instructor's singing is echoed by care providers.
- Can remember previous participants in group activities with care provider and instructor guidance, to promote fairness and turn-taking.
- Can remember simple movement patterns, with care provider's support.
- Can remember routines associated with classroom activities, including welcomes and goodbyes, as well as associated songs and musical cues.
- Can remember and anticipate musical content after several repetitions.

Levels 2 and 3: Ages 2-3

- Can repeat short musical patterns immediately after hearing them, with care provider and instructor support.
- Can fill in missing information from long-term memory when prompted.
- Can remember previous partners and participants in activities, with optional care provider and instructor assistance.
- Can remember and perform simple movement patterns, with optional care provider and instructor support.
- Can remember musical cues associated with a wider range of classroom activities, including cleaning up and forming a circle.
- Can remember the length of familiar musical phrases to time actions appropriately, with optional care provider or instructor assistance.

Levels 4-6: Ages 4-6

- Can hold short musical phrases in working memory to support audiation, with instructor assistance.
- Can remember gestures to be associated with actions.
- Can repeat short musical patterns immediately after hearing them.
- Can correct [intentional] errors in an instructor's performance.
- Can remember longer lists of items or sequences of actions.
- Can recognize and respond to familiar musical cues associated with actions, even in the middle of other activities.

Perception

Levels 0 and 1: Ages 0-24 months

- Can perceive changes in activities or musical styles when led by care providers and instructors.
- Can recognize musical components or styles from outside their native culture and develop new mental schema to accommodate them.
- Can find basic visual and auditory features in music and the environment, with optional assistance from care providers.
- Can recognize simple repeated patterns in music, including a steady beat or a recurring rhythm, with care provider assistance.
- Can associate musical patterns with regularities in the environment.
- Can recognize changes in patterns.

Levels 2 and 3: Ages 2-3

- Can recognize the difference between their native and non-native musical styles and components.
- Can recognize more fine-grained connections between regularities in music and the environment, such as the connection between pitch height and hand height.
- Can recognize timbres of different instruments, with instructor assistance.

Levels 4-6: Ages 4-6

- Can recognize repeated patterns in music, such as beat and rhythm, without requiring much attention.
- Can begin to notice other musical parts during their own performances.

Cognitive Flexibility

Levels 0 and 1: Ages 0-24 months

- Can switch between activities with guidance from care providers.
- Can change some manners of performance, with auditory and visual support from care providers.
- Can provide new examples of movements or simple categories with care provider and instructor support.
- Can transfer previously learned actions to different mediums, such as locomotor movement or instruments, with care provider support.

Levels 2 and 3: Ages 2-3

- Can create abstract categories and make meaningful choices about musical styles and actions.
- Can respond to change in musical styles with different actions, with care provider and instructor support.
- Can perform the same musical material with variations in factors such as tempo or dynamics, with optional instructor guidance.
- Can sometimes recognize and categorize simple musical forms, with instructor assistance.
- Can think of creative suggestions to use in activities, including movement patterns or new examples of a category, with optional care provider and instructor assistance.
- Can transfer previously learned actions to different mediums, such as locomotor movements or instruments, with optional care provider and instructor support.

Levels 4-6: Ages 4-6

- Can switch actions in response to many different types of changes in music, with optional instructor assistance.
- Can change several different manners of performance of the same musical material.
- Can lead their peers as a conductor, making creative choices about the music to be performed.
- Can create original melodies and rhythmic patterns.
- Can notate musical relationships in symbolic form through pictures or symbols, with instructor assistance.
- Can categorize music based on its form, with optional instructor assistance.