Managed Independent Learning Activities (MILAs) in the Music Room

Implementing Strategies and Activities for K-8 Music Students

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What are Music MILAs?

- Managed Independent Learning Activities
- A.K.A. Music Centers, Music Stations
- Include a variety of music learning modalities – Exploring, Reading, Writing, Listening, Moving, Singing, and Playing Instruments
- Reliant on space, materials, classroom organization and management
  - I use MILAs with 55-60 minute class periods when I need to assess or when I see classes more than once a week.
- Allows time to address specific learning needs or individual/small group assessment
My Seating Chart

My classroom rug is this color.

Each row has a color-corresponding bin with writing supplies. One student from each row is responsible for retrieving the bin and passing out its materials to the row.

Seats don’t change unless necessary.

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<th>Class:</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Bins (Boards and Pencils)</th>
<th>Paper Passers</th>
<th>Paper Collectors</th>
<th>Chairs</th>
<th>Instrument Clean Up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Messenger</td>
<td>Point Keeper</td>
<td>Librarian/Headphones</td>
<td>iPad tech/Headphones</td>
<td>Computer/Sound tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Leader</td>
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MILA Expectations

Stay With Your Group
Do the Assigned Activity
Share and Take Turns
Check Your Volume
Transitions

Bell 1
- Headphones Off
- Movement Stops
- Materials Returned

Students Point to Next Activity

Bell 2
- Transition to Next Activity
Beginning MILAs for Kindergarten

• Vocal Exploration
• Ribbon Wand Movement
• Syllable Sorting (Teacher Managed)
• Library
• Keyboard Exploration
Helpful Tips for Implementation

- Find out if students have MILA/Center time in the general classroom and use similar setup, expectations, and student groupings.

- Group sizes (no more than six students) and familiarity of working in groups is important for student engagement and management.

- Don’t introduce new activities, songs/texts, manipulatives, or skills during an independent center.

- Reduce paper waste by putting worksheets in clear folder or laminate.
Helpful Tips for Implementation
Continued...

- Reach out for extra help, especially with the younger elementary! Consider a parent volunteer or classroom aid to help at a specific center.

- Student jobs help in management and clean up of centers. Consider a designated leader for each group, technology manager (iPads, chromebooks, audio tech), librarian, headphone organizer, paper collector, etc.

- Centers can take time to set up, especially with technology and/or manipulatives. Make some centers low-maintenance, go-to activities like Listening Center, iPads, Classroom Library, Keyboards.

- Music MILAs are not perfectly quiet, so consider the engagement and noise level of each center.
# Favorite Worksheet and Center Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worksheets</th>
<th>Hands-On</th>
<th>Technology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solfa Ready, Set, Print Worksheets</td>
<td>Beat Blocks</td>
<td>Groove Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Worksheets- Treble/Bass, Line/Space, High/Low: 30 Pages</td>
<td>Music Koosh Ball Games for Smart Boards</td>
<td>Incredibox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instrument Families Workbook</td>
<td>“Chumbara” Singing Center</td>
<td>Keezy and Keezy Drummer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piano Activity Booklets</td>
<td>Oh, Fiddlesticks!</td>
<td>Sketch-a-Song</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Prep Ukulele Worksheets</td>
<td>Think Fun Move and Groove Dance Game</td>
<td>Rhythm Cat Lite</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dance Ribbon Streamers</td>
<td>Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra by Benjamin Britten</td>
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<td>Soundtrap EDU</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sequence</td>
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## Continued Reading

- Aileen Miracle – "**LEARNING CENTERS IN THE MUSIC CLASSROOM**" and **"GIVING STUDENTS CHOICE DURING CENTERS"**
- Ashley Queen - **CENTERS**
Workshop MILA Activities

- Koosh Ball Rhythm Reading (K-5, independent with computer/smartboard)
- iPad Apps (K-8, independent)
- Ukulele Skill Builder (5-8, independent)
- "Chumbara" Singing Center (2-5, independent)