

A Study of the Effectiveness of the *ABC Music & Me* Program

Background and Purpose

During the 2012 - 2013 school year, SEG Measurement conducted a national, multi-site study of preschool students to evaluate the effectiveness of the *ABC Music & Me* program that harnesses music to engage students and teach them skills ranging from vocabulary and expression to self-regulation. *ABC Music & Me* is a supplemental early literacy & language curriculum that is designed to be used in school classrooms, alongside a robust at-home learning platform that allows families to get involved in the child's learning at home.

The findings indicate that students in classes using the ABC Music & Me Program made significantly greater gains in language arts and literacy skills as compared to students in classes that did not use any of the ABC Music & Me Program components.

About *ABC Music & Me*

ABC Music & Me, created by *Kindermusik International*, is a research-based early childhood curriculum that uses bundled, thematic 30-minute lessons to help young children learn important language, listening, and social skills. *Kindermusik International* is the world's leading provider of music and movement programs for young children, and is enjoyed by over 2 million families in more than 70 countries. *ABC Music & Me* allows the classroom teacher to easily utilize music to engage students and teach skills ranging from vocabulary and expression to self-regulation.

To use *ABC Music & Me*, each week in class, lessons combine preschooler's natural love of music, storytelling, and imaginative play with age-appropriate group activities for kids that introduce early music concepts. Teachers with any degree of musical backgrounds guide children through flexible 30-minute lessons providing early literacy and language instruction designed for all levels of development, and at-risk students. Each week, teachers begin a new thematic unit with teacher tools and Student Home Materials, complete with instruments, songs, stories, early literacy activities, and parent notes.

Students learn new words, explore new ideas, and find new ways of expression through theme-related chants and stories. They express themselves through movement, singing and pretend play. New themes are introduced monthly, and parent involvement is encouraged by the use of take-home stories, games and instruments.

Class activities vary depending on the child's age. But most classes involve a mix of singing, instrument play, dancing and movement, story time, and other activities. Activities are designed to develop and strengthen the student's physical and neural functions, social-emotional skills, early literacy, and early math.

Study Design

The study examined the effectiveness of the *ABC Music & Me* Program by comparing the growth in language arts and literacy skills among students using *ABC Music & Me*, to a comparable group of preschoolers who did not use the *ABC Music & Me* program.

This study incorporated a pre-post treatment-control group design in which all participating students took the same pre and post test (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) Pre-K Assessment) at the beginning and end of the school year. Students in the treatment group received *ABC Music & Me* instruction and activities as part of their preschool instruction during the school year.

This study was conducted by SEG Measurement, supported by a grant from Kindermusik International. SEG is an independent research firm, providing research services to educational publishers, technology providers, and government agencies, since 1979.

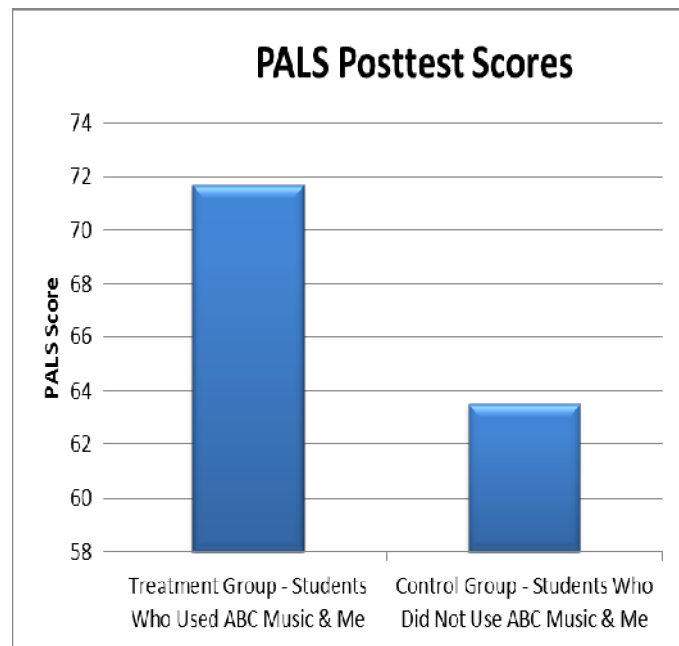
Students in the control group did not receive any *ABC Music & Me* instruction or activities.

Students in the control and treatment groups attended the same or comparable schools and statistical analyses were conducted to ensure that the groups were comparable. Analysis of Covariance was used to compare the performance on the post-test between the treatment and control groups while controlling for any initial differences in ability.

In addition to the core quantitative effectiveness study, teacher and parent feedback was collected regarding *ABC Music & Me* including biweekly surveys of teachers regarding usage, end of year teacher survey, classroom environment surveys, and parent surveys in January and June regarding the use of the Home Materials.

Results

The findings of the study show that the students who used *ABC Music & Me* as part of their preschool education **grew over 30%** more on the PALS Assessment than a comparable group of preschool students who did not use *ABC Music & Me*. These results indicate that the *ABC Music & Me* program shows proven success in boosting literacy, language arts, and other important school-readiness skills.



Conclusion

Students who used *ABC Music & Me* showed greater gains in language arts and literacy skills than students who did not use *ABC Music & Me*.

Teachers who used *ABC Music & Me* found the program to be effective in many areas. Teachers and parents would **strongly** recommend the program to others.



"The most effective aspects of ABC Music & Me are that the children all participate and have fun doing the different activities each week. The lesson plan is easy to follow. The assessment forms from fall to spring show growth in many areas so it is exciting for teachers as well as parents to see the improvements over the school year. Overall I feel that ABC Music & Me has now become a daily part of my lesson plan and I am looking forward to using the program next year."

– Preschool teacher who used *ABC Music & Me* during the 2012 – 2013 school year

"My son loves ABC Music & Me! I think this program is amazing for learning, listening and social skills."

– Parent of a child who used *ABC Music & Me* during the 2012 – 2013 school year

This study was conducted by SEG Measurement, supported by a grant from Kindermusik International. SEG is an independent research firm, providing research services to educational publishers, technology providers, and government agencies, since 1979.