



## **TIGGA & TOGGA WEBSITE EDUCATIONAL OVERVIEW**

Written by:

Warren Brown, Creative Director, Cuppa Coffee Studios

Edited and approved by:

Marilyn Robb, E.C.E.C, Child Care Program Manager, Sault College Child Care Centre

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# 1. WEBSITE OVERVIEW

Tigga & Togga is an animated preschool series and interactive experience that takes place in a world where every object has a sound and every creature has a song waiting to be discovered. The main characters, Tigga and Togga, are conductors of a symphony of sound that takes preschoolers on a journey of exploration and creativity as they share the music that makes their world go round.

## **Vision**

To introduce preschool aged children to the concept of music and sound as a form of communication.

## **Mission**

To use a hands-on, interactive approach, animation and music to demonstrate that objects can be used to produce sounds and that when simple sounds are combined they can communicate thoughts, emotions and moods.

## **Description**

The Tigga & Togga website provides caregivers and teachers with an online resource that will introduce preschoolers to the concept of music as communication.

Online, preschoolers will find location specific activities that focus on the foundation concepts of musical expression. In each location children are active participants in experiences that introduce musical concepts that demonstrate melody, rhythm, harmony, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre and structure.

## **Educational Strengths**

- The website provides a wide range of activities for the child and parent/caregiver thus allowing the experience to be tailored to the individual child's interests and abilities.
- The website's activities are open ended, so there is no right or wrong response. This allows the child to build self-esteem and a sense of mastery.
- As the child develops and gains more experience with the website they will be able to increase the complexity of the music they create.
- The website provides a playful way to encourage musical exploration.
- The website does not rely on verbal prompts. This gives the website a more universally accessible appeal.
- The locations found in the website provide a mix of the familiar (kitchen, backyard, farm) and the less familiar (clock works, under water, wild west) which can be used by parents/caregivers as an opportunity to build language skills as they discuss what is happening in each of the scenes.
- The complexity of the sounds used in the website provides opportunities to expose children to a more stimulating and rich experience.

## **Musical Awareness and Mental Development**

The Tigga & Togga website is putting into practice the philosophies and research of advocacy organizations such as the Canadian Coalition for Music Education ([www.coalitionformusiced.ca](http://www.coalitionformusiced.ca)) and SupportMusic ([www.supportmusic.com](http://www.supportmusic.com)). These organizations endorse the early introduction of musical concepts to preschool children.

Below are quotes supporting the benefits of introducing preschool aged children to the concept of music and sound as a form of communication.

Music enhances the process of learning. The systems they nourish, which include our integrated sensory, attention, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities, are shown to be the driving forces behind all other learning.

*Konrad, R.R., Empathy, Arts and Social Studies, 2000*

When a child learns by experience that music forges direct links between self and world, self-expression becomes more fluent; the music helps interpret “who I am.”

*Growing up Complete, the report of the National Commission on Music Education, 1990*

Just as music involves all aspects of learning (memory, recognition, emotion, motor control and perception), music education can work to stimulate brain nerve resources that might otherwise be left untapped.

*Dr. Frederick Tims, reported in AMC Music News, June 2, 1999*

## **Using the Website**

When using the site, it is suggested that parent/caregivers talk to preschoolers about what sounds they are hearing by asking divergent questions like “How does that sound make you feel?” These types of questions encourage children to think of their interpretation rather than guiding them with a question like, “Does that sound make you feel happy or sad?”

It is also suggested that parents/caregivers encourage preschoolers to interact with the website by singing, clapping or dancing along with the activities.

## **2. TIGGA & TOGGA WEBSITE AREAS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Main Menu**

The main menu is a room inside Tigga & Togga's home. Items in the room relating to six different locations act as portals. When users roll over the items (the grandfather clock, the kitchen door, the backyard window, the fish bowl, the chicken or the tack box) Tigga & Togga appear and a musical sting plays, inviting user to click. When users click one of the items, they are sent to that location where they will find three activities.

### **Navigation System**

Once inside a location users are presented with a navigation system consisting of three numbered polka dots in the upper right corner. These dots are colour coded to represent the three activities in each location (blue = Activity 1, red = Activity 2, yellow = Activity 3). An arrow in the bottom left corner, when clicked, will take users back to the Main Menu.

### **Mixers**

In each location, the first activity presented is a music and animation mixer. Users can click on different characters and objects to bring them to life and hear their individual sounds.

By choosing different combinations of sights and sounds the mixers provide preschoolers with an opportunity to activate different elements, from a single note to a phrase of music and create complex musical expressions.

### **Activities**

Below are descriptions and keywords for the individual activities found in the Tigga & Togga website.

Inside Clock Activity 01 (keyword: TEMPO)

Tigga & Togga are inside a clock. They are running on the cogs and gears that make the pendulum swing. Users can click the lever to make the pendulum swing faster or slower and in turn make Tigga & Togga run faster or slower to keep up with their choice.

This activity demonstrates how music communicates speed. The faster the tempo of the tune, the faster the cogs and gears spin and the faster Tigga & Togga will have to run.

Inside Clock Activity 02 (keyword: RHYTHM)

Although the clock looks like a grandfather clock, it is indeed a coo coo clock! Users have a choice of three doors. When users click on a door, Tigga & Togga come out a play a rhythmic call and answer tune, with a surprise ending from the coo coo bird. Each door cues a similar call and answer tune played with different objects ranging from an oil can and wrench to a drum and sticks to a couple of old bike horns.

This activity demonstrates repetition and rhythm and how various instruments playing the same rhythmic structure can sound so different.

#### Kitchen Activity 01 (keyword: TIMBRE)

Tigga & Togga are at the kitchen counter playing a tune with spoons and drinking glasses. Users can click on the glasses to switch them to pots; they can click again to switch the pots to penguins.

This activity demonstrates how a tune with consistent pitch and rhythm can sound very different when played with different instruments. It creates awareness that different instruments have different timbre.

#### Kitchen Activity 02 (keyword: TIMBRE)

Users are treated to a performance of a jazzy tune performed by two penguin bands. When users click on one band they hear the tune played by traditional instruments you would hear in a symphony (cello, French horn, timpani drum), when they click on the other band, they hear the same jazzy tune played with objects found in a kitchen (drinking glasses, a cooking pot and a couple of garbage cans).

This activity demonstrates that music can be made with unexpected objects and everything can have a musical quality or timbre when incorporated into a musical tune.

#### Chicken Coop Activity 01 (keyword: MELODY)

Inside the Chicken Coop, four chickens sit on their nests. When users click on a chicken, it lays an egg and music plays as it descends down to the basket. Depending which chicken the user chooses, the path for the egg's descent is different.

This activity demonstrates how music communicates motion and speed. The different descending melodic lines use pitch to express movement from top to bottom. The composition of the four melodic lines describes the unique details of the egg's journey from chicken to basket, be it straight down, on angles or a loop-da-loop.

#### Chicken Coop Activity 02 (keyword: RHYTHM)

In the chicken coop, Tigga & Togga grab a horn and a banjo and play a little tune with a chick and a rooster. Users click on the icons to make the different characters appear or disappear as they play their tune.

This activity demonstrates the structure of a tune and how playing simple rhythmic sounds together can make a bigger and more complex tune.

#### Wild West Activity 01 (keyword: HARMONY)

Users sit before a big stage curtain. Three icons depict Togga's happy, sad and scared face. Users click on an icon, the curtain raises and Tigga & Togga perform a cowboy pantomime to a tune.

This activity demonstrates that the same music can be composed to express different emotions. In this case, the same tune uses harmony differently so that it clearly expresses happy, sad and scared emotions.

#### Wild West Activity 02 (keyword: TEMPO)

Tigga & Togga are at the helm of an old fashioned pump car. Users click on a dial to make Tigga & Togga pump faster or slower.

This activity demonstrates how music communicates speed. The faster Tigga & Togga pump, the faster the tempo of the music.

#### Underwater Activity 01 (keyword: DYNAMICS)

Tigga & Togga are scuba diving. When users click either Tigga or Togga, depending on their location, they will swim closer or farther and play a tune.

This activity demonstrates how the dynamics of music communicates spatial relationships. The louder and more intimate the character's tune, the closer they are, the softer and more ambient the tune, the farther they are.

#### Underwater Activity 02 (keyword: STRUCTURE)

Users click on the rocks below the coral trumpets to play their sounds. Each rock has a different sound.

This activity provides opportunity for preschoolers to explore different sounds and structure by playing with this reinterpreted synthesizer.

#### Backyard Activity 01 (keyword: PITCH)

Tigga & Togga are flying a kite in the backyard. A big rainbow fills the sky. Users can click on the different stripes of the rainbow to make the kite fly lower or higher in the sky. With each click a musical flourish is played in a higher or lower pitch relating to the position of the kite in the sky.

This activity demonstrates how musical pitch can communicate the physical relationship of high and low.

#### Backyard Activity 02 (keyword: PITCH)

There is a leaky hose in the backyard. Tigga, Togga, a gopher and a blue bird stand behind the hose. Users click on the characters, making them step onto the hose to block the leaks. As more of the leaks get plugged, the pitch of the music becomes higher as does the height of the water spouting from the sprinkler.

This activity demonstrates how the behavior of a wind instrument alters pitch by plugging up the holes to adjust the length of the tunnel and how musical pitch can communicate the physical relationship of high and low.

### **3. GLOSSARY OF MUSICAL TERMS**

**Melody**

A pleasing succession of sounds.

**Rhythm**

The patterned, recurring alternations of sound.

**Harmony**

A pleasing combination of sounds.

**Pitch**

The property of a sound resulting in the highness or lowness of sound.

**Tempo**

The speed at which music is played.

**Dynamics**

A variation of intensity in sound (such as volume).

**Timbre**

The qualities of a sound that distinguishes it from other sounds of the same pitch and volume.

**Structure**

The arrangement of sounds.

## 4. WEBSITE CREDITS

Executive Producer: Adam Shaheen

Producer: Lalitha Poonasamy

Creative Director: Warren Brown

Project Manager: Mark Achtenberg

Animation Director: Ken Cunningham

Composer: Adam Goddard

Writer: Brendan Russell

Technical Supervisor: Al Piazza

Flash Animator/Designer: Nick Sewell

Flash Animators: Sean Wickett, Anibal Davila

Flash Programmers: James Roberts, Matt Burtch

Interface Consultant: Trevor Shaikin

Accountant: Loretta VanHart

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