

COMPOSING WITH CRITTERS

Sunshine 1 students are capable of composing their own tunes, using the patterns, “stepping up”, “stepping down,” etc. By this time they usually have a good idea what each of these patterns sounds like, so they can place their patterns in the slots in their composition train, and take it to the keyboard to try playing it.

When they have a tune they like, they can write it down on paper, using the stencil below as a pattern to draw the steps they need. Parent help will be needed, of course, to trace the required steps where they need to be on a blank sheet of paper. Then, with the parent’s help, the critter pictures can be pasted on the steps. This produces a piece similar to what they are used to reading in their music books.

To make the stencil, paste the drawing below on cardboard from a cereal box, allow it to dry thoroughly, and cut it out carefully. By placing the stencil either right side up or upside down, the needed steps can be drawn. The straight side even works for “standing still.”

Have fun composing with your child!

Nora ☀

