

auditory sense by cultivating musical taste. The delight of very young children in monotonous repetition of sound is well known. Out of this grows a fondness for the very simplest airs, the sing-song strains of the so-called popular music. A careful selection of the best musical compositions of kindergarten song books, in the rendition of which the child associates the melody with appropriate word and gesture, gradually attunes the ear and emotion to a purer, higher class of music.

As intimated above, the use of songs or games is the "special Froebel device" for responding to the child's desire to imitate. "What the child imitates he is trying to understand," and it is therefore very important not only that he should be protected from the imitation of harmful activities, but that he should be directed to the imitation of such as shall prove beneficial. Accordingly only the typical aspects of life are portrayed, and through these the child is given experiences relating to the family, to nature, to trade, to patriotism, and to the Church. In the songs picturing family life, whether it be "Good Mother Hen," "The Birds in the Nest," or the little song describing the human family, the aim is to increase the child's love for his home, and foreshadow the duties arising out of parental, filial, and fraternal relationships. Love best reveals itself in action; and the kindergarten sets apart a day for a flower festival, at which the child expresses his gratitude for a mother's tender care by making her a basket, filling it with flowers and singing as he gives it to her,

"Weave a little basket,
Fill it up with posies;
Roses from the garden
Blossoms from the wood.
With our fondest wishes,
With our songs and kisses,
Bring them to our parents
Dear and kind and good."

The point of departure for the nature songs and games lies in the child's constant and friendly intercourse with the bright sunshine the glistening snow, the silver moon, the changing trees, the singing birds, the flowers, and butterflies. "Oneness with Nature is the glory of childhood." The kindergarten aims to quicken this interest in and sympathy for "the life that sleeps in the plant and dreams in the animal," and thereby restrain much of the reckless destruction