

# Taking Space, Giving Space

## Fill the Space with Sound

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**Time Needed:** 20-30 minutes

**Arts Focus:** Music

**Age Range:** 5-8

### Mini-Lesson Description:

In this lesson, learners will use their voices to create big and small musical sounds and make drawings to represent them. Through play and music, this activity supports the social emotional skill of sharing space in relationship to others.

### Key Concepts:

Singing Together; Positive Self-Expression; Sharing Space; Exploring Opposites (Loud/Quiet, High/Low, Big/Small); Drawing; Doodling.

### Materials Needed/Prep:

- Space where you can stand, draw, move a bit, and sing freely
- 4-6 colored markers or crayons
- Paper

### Step-by-Step:

1. Begin with a conversation about sharing space with others: What are some of the spaces or places where you feel free and happy? When have you had to share space with others? When/why has that been difficult?
2. Warm up your voices by singing a familiar song or tracing some wiggly lines in the air and following their shape with your singing voices.
3. Draw a smallish circle in the middle of a piece of paper, noticing how it takes up some of the paper. Sing a smallish sound (such as a quiet “ooooooh” that slides up and down) while drawing that smallish circle in air in front of you. Have the learner(s) try it with you.
4. Choose a second color, draw a medium-sized circle around the first one and notice with the learner(s) how you’re taking up more space. Together, sing a “medium-sized” version of your sound while making the shape of this medium circle in front of you in the air.
5. With a third color, draw a final big circle taking up most of the page around the first two circles. Try out a “big” version of your sound, imagining that you’re taking up almost all the space around you with your singing.
6. Together, practice singing and tracing in the air all three circles, taking up more and more space with each circle. Ask: “If I wanted to add my own different sounds and still give you space to sing these circles, what could I do?”
7. Look together at your circles, and imagine new small shapes or symbols that could fit into the remaining spaces on the page, such as small dots, stars, short squiggles, a long thin line, etc. Draw your brainstormed shapes on a new piece of paper.
8. For each new shape idea, imagine a sound. Remember, these sounds should give space for the big circles to sing through! Simple “sounds that give space” to try could include; tongue clicks, singing short single notes, humming a quiet long drone, etc.
9. Choose one or two of these ideas and add them to the remaining space on your drawing using new color(s). Perform your picture together with both of you taking space and giving space sounds.

### Variations and Next Steps:

- For learners uncomfortable vocalizing, the entire activity can be done with resonant instruments.
- Older learners can independently draw and imagine their own versions of the two musical parts, taking space and giving it.

Watch a video of this Creative Start Mini-Lesson and find more at: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/creative-start/>