ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN, COMPOSER/TEACHING ARTIST, VERY YOUNG COMPOSERS, PS 11, BROOKLYN, NY:

Composing is one of the national standards of music education. And just the creation process is something really important in the classroom and something that could be done very easily, just by improvising with the children on instruments, by clapping, if you don't have instruments, by singing. Just kids have an innate ability to come up with stuff. If you give them an instrument, they'll play and they'll come up with their own things. The important thing is for them to repeat — if they like something — to be able to repeat it. The same thing with the voice. If they were singing something and if they like it, then they repeat it and then that’s the start of a composition. And then maybe you put a few of those together and then have a class composition.