

KINDERGARTEN: THE MUSICAL

"Shoe-Loose"

KTM 103A

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103A SHOE-LOOSE

INT. MS. MORENO'S CLASSROOM - DAY

CURTAINS UP on BIRDY arranging dry noodles into the numbers one and two with RADISH and ROSE at their work table.

BIRDY (V.O. - TITLE CALL OUT)
Shoe-lose!

Birdy bobs her head happily as she works.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
(softly chanting)
One, two, cool new shoes. *Uno, dos,*
za-pa-tos...

Birdy sneaks a peek at her feet under the table and grins. She returns to sorting... only to peek again and quiver with glee.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
<THRILLED LITTLE GIGGLE>

MS. MORENO <TINGS> her triangle.

MS. MORENO
Loving your noodle numbers, my
kiddie pies! Now it's time to line
up on our polka-dots for recess!

Ms. Moreno points to the line-up area marked by big polka-dots on the floor. The KINDERGARTENERS STIR, excited. Rose and Radish hop out of their chairs.

ROSE/RADISH
Recess! Let's goooo!/<CROWD CHEERS>

BIRDY
It's show-time!

Birdy spins out from her chair, revealing her gorgeous new HI-TOP SNEAKERS! Rose and Radish gape at the ruby-red and super sparkly sneaks. They have iridescent wings sprouting from the sides and beautiful rainbow laces. <SPARKLE STING!>

ROSE/RADISH
Whooooa!

As Birdy leaps toward her polka-dot, ABIGAIL peeps the sneaks and stops in her tracks, dazzled.

ABIGAIL
Birdy! YOUR SNEAKERS. ARE. AMAZING.

Birdy beams with pride. She twirls on her polka-dot and lands with one jaunty foot pointed out.

BIRDY
You like? They're my new kicks!

ABUZZ, the rest of the class crowds in to get a closer look.

KAT/RADISH/KENJI
Sooo sparkly!/<whistle>/ Very cool.

Birdy strikes another pose, basking in the attention.

BIRDY
Thanks! Mami and I took a special trip to the city to see a matinee and then I saw these sneakers in a window and <INHALES> fell in LOVE.

Birdy waggles one foot so the iridescent wings flutter. Everyone SWOONS.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
I helped clear the dinner table for a whole month to buy them! Look how super-springy the soles are!

Birdy hops in place. The kids nod in time with her.

ROSE
That's some serious air, Birdy!

BIRDY
<CHUCKLE> These sneakers are my new most-favorite thing in the whole world. They make me feel...

Birdy stops hopping and searches for the right word. Finally her face lights up, and she SPINS into a new pose. The classroom lights CUT OUT. A SPOTLIGHT locks onto her! Like a disco ball, her shoes throw glittery reflections everywhere.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
...TWINKLE-TASTIC!

She leaps to the next polka-dot. More shimmer and glimmer!

BIRDY (CONT'D)
They make me feel GLITTER-RIFIC!

Birdy twirls to the last polka-dot. Her friends follow.

BIRDY (CONT'D)

Why, I feel SPARK-TACULAR!! With
these new shoes, I can do anything!

MUSIC STARTS. We push in fast toward the dancing reflections
and TRANSITION TO:

SONG #1 - FANTASY - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

*A 2D-fantasy sequence for a high-energy, 50s rock n roll
number a la "Greased Lightning." It's called **MY NEW KICKS**.*

*In a school gym decorated for a dance, Birdy dances with
friends at a sock hop, in a sparkly, red letterman jacket to
match her sneaks. She SINGS how she can't wait to wear these
new sneakers to dance parties and other fun events.*

BIRDY

RUBY RED HIGH-TOPS WITH SILVER
WINGS
RAINBOW LACES AND EVERYTHING
BOUNCE IN THE SOLES, SPARKLY TOES,
WHEN I SHOW UP IN MY NEW SHOES
EVERYBODY KNOWS

THESE ARE MY NEW KICKS
MY NEW KICKS
I LOVE 'EM AND I'M GONNA KEEP 'EM
JUST LIKE THIS
SHINY AND CLEAN
THEY'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE
THE GREATEST PAIR OF SNEAKERS
THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN
MY NEW KICKS!

Birdy FLUTTERS up into the air and then lands to...

A sock hop with her CLASSMATES who ECHO every verse:

BIRDY (CONT'D)

DOUBLE DUTCH, CARTWHEELS,
JUMPING JACKS, FLIPS,
HOPSCOTCH, BASKETBALL,
I CAN DO ALL OF THIS.
FASTER AND FARTHER AND ZIPPITY
QUICK
I FEEL LIKE I CAN FLY
THANKS TO

MY NEW KICKS
MY NEW KICKS
(MORE)

BIRDY (CONT'D)
*I LOVE 'EM AND I'M GONNA KEEP 'EM
JUST LIKE THIS
SHINY AND CLEAN
THEY'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE
THE GREATEST PAIR OF SNEAKERS
THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!*

MY NEW KICKS!

AS the SONG ENDS, Birdy takes a jubilant leap and lands back in...

EXT. PORTER ELEMENTARY - PLAY YARD - DAY

Real-world Birdy lands triumphantly on the yard, arms out wide, as kids stream past to recess. Rose and Radish beckon.

ROSE
C'mon, Birdy! Let's try out your new sneaks on the jungle gym!

BIRDY
Oooh, okay! -- whoa!

Birdy starts after but immediately STUMBLES. <SQEEAK!>

WHIP PAN down to... a SCUFF on her sneaker!

BIRDY (CONT'D)
<GASP> Oh no! Oh no no no!

Rose and Radish gather to examine the scuff.

RADISH
<PSSH> It's just a little dirt. No biggie.

Birdy is flabbergasted at this response.

BIRDY
What!? Yes, biggie! The BIGGEST biggie! I ruined my new shoes!

ROSE
Nah. I bet you can just rub it off.

BIRDY
You think?

Birdy reaches down and RUBS at the scuff. Voilà! It wipes away! Birdy SIGHS in relief.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
<PHEW!> It worked.

Birdy lifts her feet up, and the sneakers glitter in the sunlight. <SPARKLE STING!> The kids <SIGH> in admiration.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
Spark-tacular save, Rose.

RACK FOCUS past the sneakers to Abigail reaching the top of the climbing structure in the distance.

ABIGAIL
(calling out)
Made it to the mountain top!

Rose starts off, gesturing for Radish and Birdy to follow.

ROSE
Ooh, fun! Let's get to the top too!

RADISH
<VROOOM!> Beat you there!--

BIRDY
Uh, you go ahead. I'll stay here.

Radish and Rose turn back, confused.

RADISH
But you love mountain climbing!

BIRDY
I know, but what if I scuff my
shoes again? The dirt might not
come off next time.

Birdy backs away, taking delicate steps. Radish and Rose watch, perplexed.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
From now on, I have to play super-
duper carefully so my sneakers stay
clean and new forever.

ROSE
Super-duper carefully?

RADISH
Like you're not gonna run anymore?

BIRDY
I'll run, just not very fast. Or
far. Or at all.

ROSE
What about jumping?

BIRDY
I can do a gentle "boop."

She demonstrates the smallest, gentlest hop in the world.

ROSE
SO WHERE'S THE FUN, BIRDY? WHERE??

BIRDY
The fun is having perfect sneakers!

RADISH
Hmmm. If you say so.

BIRDY
Just watch. I can have a blast *and* keep my shoes squeaky clean at the same time. You'll see!

She spins to make a big, dramatic exit... and inches gingerly away. The slowest, most cautious steps. Rose and Radish watch this painstaking process, mystified.

ROSE
(whispering to Radish)
That does not look like having a blast at all.

RADISH
<WOMP WOMP>

EXT. PLAY YARD - ASPHALT AREA - DAY

TEO and JAMIL play hopscotch on squares drawn in PURPLE CHALK. Ms. Moreno is nearby, keeping an eye on the yard. Birdy approaches with dainty steps.

BIRDY
Hi Jamil! *Hola Teo!* Can I play?

TEO
<ROAR>!

JAMIL
That means yes! Definitely.

Jamil hands her a rock. She tosses it onto square number one.

BIRDY
(softly to herself)
Okay, Birdy. Easy does it.

Teo and Jamil watch Birdy crouch down to hop... but then take a teeny tiny STEP instead, planting her feet in the cleanest, most chalk-free corner of square two. She <SIGHS> in relief. Teo and Jamil are baffled.

TEO
Um, Birdy? It's called HOP-scotch.
Not STEP-scotch!

BIRDY
I know, but if I hop and land on a line or a purple-y number, I'll get my shoes all <SHUDDERS> chalk-y.

JAMIL
But the rules of hopscotch are...
you hop!

TEO
Or else you're kinda not playing right....

Birdy deliberates and realizes they have a point.

BIRDY
Okayyyy. One little hop.

She <BREATHES DEEP> and does a teensy little hop into square three, landing on one foot. She wiggles to stay balanced.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
Quick! How does my shoe look? Any scuffs? Chalk marks?

JAMIL / TEO
Nope! / Very shiny!

Buoyed, Birdy takes a bigger hop to number four.

BIRDY
Made it-- whoops! Whoaah!

But this time, she loses her balance and spills over!

JAMIL / TEO
Yikes! You okay? / Roar?

Jamil and Teo help Birdy up. She's unhurt but covers her eyes.

BIRDY
I'm fine, just too scared to look!

Jamil and Teo peek at her sneakers then exchange a glance.
There's a BIG PURPLE SMEAR across both toes.

JAMIL
So don't worry about it, buuuuut-

Birdy drops her hands and examines her feet frantically.

BIRDY
Oh no oh no oh no!

TEO
It's only chalk! It'll come off!

Birdy wipes furiously at the chalk. To everyone's relief, it does come off (mostly)!

BIRDY
<SIGHS> I still see a little purple, but it's better.

JAMIL
My turn! Unless you want a do-over,
Birdy?

Birdy carefully backs away.

BIRDY
That's okay. Thanks, but I can't play anymore. I need to find a game that's less chalk-y and scuff-y and... sparkly shoes ruin-y....

Jamil and Teo watch Birdy walk off awkwardly. Her sneakers a-shimmer.

JAMIL
Okay...

ON BIRDY marching cautiously across the schoolyard, deftly sidestepping pebbles and twigs and grass.

BIRDY
(to herself)
There's gotta be a CLEAN way to have fun! Let's see...

Birdy makes her hands into pretend binoculars and looks through. We watch from her POV as she scans her surroundings.

BIRDY'S POV: Her gaze lands on the field. Kenji KICKS a soccer ball along with a cloud of dust. POCK!

BIRDY (CONT'D)
Hmmm, no soccer for me.

BIRDY'S POV: Birdy keeps scanning and lands on Abigail and Radish swinging a jump rope for Rose.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
Eeeep, jump rope! I love jump rope!

Then she scans down. Rose jump ropes into a small puddle. SPLASH! Birdy <SIGHS> wistfully.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
I used to love jump rope.

BIRDY'S POV: Finally Birdy's binoculars find the monkey bars, where ELLIE swings from the bars, her feet dangling. Kat <CHEERS> her on from below.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
The monkey bars! Perfect! No way my feet will touch the ground when I'm swinging around up there –

Ellie jumps down, landing in the sand below with a gentle <THUD>. Birdy puts down her pretend binoculars.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
Ooh, sandy landing though. If only I could put something over my shoes... Hmmm...

She looks around for ideas and spots two brown paper LUNCH BAGS on a bench. Her eyes light up. CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Birdy waddles awkwardly towards the play structure, intensely focused, a big paper bag on each foot. She <CRINKLES> with every step.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - PLAY STRUCTURE - DAY

Kat and Ellie watch from below as Birdy gingerly climbs the steps up to the first monkey bar, <CRINKLING> away.

BIRDY
Mind if I monkey bar with you?

KAT
Go for it! what's with the bags?

BIRDY
They're my sneaker protectors. I
can't believe how much dirt and
chalk and sand is out here. No
sparkly shoe is safe!

The twins look around. Kat lifts up her foot and wiggles it
experimentally. A bunch of sand shakes loose.

KAT
(indifferent)
Hmm.

Up above, Birdie swings to the first bar, then to the next.

BIRDY
<GIGGLE> I KNEW I could still have
fun with my shoes--

Suddenly a gust of WIND BLOWS the paper bags off her feet and
WHIPS them away! Birdy looks down at her exposed shoes.
<SPARKLE STING!>

BIRDY (CONT'D)
My sneaker protectors!

KAT
We'll get 'em!

Kat and Ellie sprint after the bags, but just as the twins
get close, the wind carries them away again!

ON BIRDY dangling precariously, kicking her legs anxiously.
She looks down at the sand beneath her.

BIRDY
(to sand)
Oh no, sand. I am not landing in
you and getting my sneakers all
dusty n'dirty-- whoa!

Birdy's hands begin to slip!

BIRDY (CONT'D)
(strained, calling out)
Hurry! I'm... slipping!

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLAY STRUCTURE - Abigail, Rose,
and Radish spot Birdy dangling from the monkey bars, her
shiny red shoes flailing in all directions.

ROSE
Birdy needs help!

They hurry over to the monkey bars and crowd underneath Birdy, pushing her up with all their might. But they're kindergarteners, so it's chaos.

ROSE (CONT'D)
We got you, Birdy!

RADISH
No <GRUNT> sweat!

BIRDY
My shoooooes!!

Kat and Ellie rush over with the escaped paper bags, frantically trying to shove them on Birdy's bicycling feet. Chaotic but harmless!

KAT
We got 'em! We got 'em!

But not fast enough! Birdy's grip gives out and she DROPS.

Everyone TUMBLES into a big, stunned pile. After a moment, Ellie <GIGGLES>. Then Kat. Then everyone else except Birdy!

Birdy untangles from the pile first, anxious to inspect her sneakers. They're covered in sand! Birdy <GROANS> and crouches down to brush them off.

ELLIE
Are your special shoes okay?

BIRDY
They've been sparklier. I think I better stay away from the monkey bars. No hopscotch either. I see huge problems with jump rope.

KAT
So what *can* you do, Birdy?

BIRDY
I can... sit on that bench until recess is over... Don't worry, I'll be fiiiiine!

Birdy's friends are worried. They watch Birdy carefully cross to...

THE BENCH by the kickball diamond. She sits and SIGHS, glum as a raincloud.

She peers down at her sneakers, hopeful that their sparkles will perk her up. But they don't. That's weird...

BIRDY (CONT'D)
<SIGH> I'll be fine.

No, she won't.

ON KENJI grabbing a beautiful red ball off the ball cart.

KENJI
Hey, everyone. KICKBALL TIME!

The other kindergartners CHEER.

BIRDY winces.

BIRDY
Aw, kickball's my favorite....

She watches Kenji pitch. Ellie KICK. Jamil LEAP onto second base. Rose SLIDE home....

She looks down at her feet, miserable. <WEAK SPARKLE STING!>

BIRDY (CONT'D)
<SAD SIGH>

Birdy looks extra small on the bench. The schoolyard sounds recede. The world dims. The SPOTLIGHT finds her once again.

SONG #2 - "NO MORE PLAYTIME"

New MUSIC starts. Birdy sings "**NO MORE PLAYTIME**," a tender ballad in the style of Annie's "Maybe."

BIRDY (CONT'D)
GO AHEAD, I'LL BE FINE
WAITING ON THE SIDELINES
NO, REALLY, I DON'T MIND.
I DON'T WANT TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN MY FRIENDS AND MY SHOES
BUT SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO.

NO MORE PLAYTIME
NO MORE FUN
NO MORE HOPSCOTCH
NO MORE SUN-SHINE
AT LEAST TILL RECESS ENDS

MY FRIENDS ARE PLAYING
BUT I'M NOT.
GOTTA KEEP MY SNEAKERS SPOT-LESS
LIKE THEY WERE BEFORE
(MORE)

BIRDY (CONT'D)
IN THE WINDOW OF THE STORE
I'M SURE
I'LL NEVER PLAY AGAIN.

SONG ENDS.

RADISH (O.S.)
Birdy? Everything okay?

Birdy looks up to see Rose and Radish watching with concern.

ROSE
You sure you don't want to play
kickball? The best game in the
world?

Birdy finally crumbles.

BIRDY
Of course I want to play! But
that's just not who I am anymore!

Rose and Radish sit down with her.

BIRDY (CONT'D)
I have fancy sneakers now. I have
to take care of them!

ROSE
Gotta say, sparkly shoes seem kinda
not that... fun?

RADISH
And lonely.

Birdy SIGHS in agreement. Rose props her foot on the bench to re-buckle her shoe. Birdy notices big grass stains on her pants' knees.

BIRDY
Oh no. Grass stains!

Rose blinks down at her knees.

ROSE
Oh! Yup. From when I slid into home
base!

RADISH
<Sslide!> It was exciting.

BIRDY
Yeah, but too bad your pants are
ruined.

ROSE

Ruined? I don't think they're ruined. Now they just tell the story of my big ol' slide.

Birdy still looks confused, so Rose hops up and points to the dust smears on her ankle-socks.

ROSE (CONT'D)

See this? It's from running bases!

Getting into it, Radish points out a grass stain of his own.

RADISH

And this is from when I tried to catch the kickball and went <WOBBLE WOBBLE> <KABUMP>!

Birdy takes this all in. Her gears are turning.

ROSE

That was a great kabump! See, Birdy, the messy stuff just shows how much fun we had.

This is a revelation to Birdy. Her eyes are huge.

BIRDY

I... never thought of it like that before--

KENJI (O.S.)

Heads up!

The trio turns to see A KICKBALL escaping the game and coming *straight at them!* Rose and Radish leap toward it.

Then BAM! Time SLOWS, and Birdy stares at her friends suspended mid-leap. At their grass-stains and scuffs. At their faces alight with joy. <NEW KIND OF SPARKLE STING!>

BIRDY knows what she's gotta do. Time SPEEDS BACK UP, and she hurtles forward, overtaking her pals in two strides.

BIRDY

I got it!!!!

She kicks the ball! <FWUMP!> It sails far, far toward outfield!

The whole playground erupts in <CHEERS>.

ROSE / RADISH

Run, Birdy! / Run!

Breathless and glowing with pride, Birdy shoots off toward the kickball diamond.

A **MUSICAL MONTAGE** starts. Birdy rounds first base like she's leaping from cloud to fluffy cloud. Then second! Then third!!

Radish and Rose <HOLLER> with glee as Birdy pounds the dirt, kicking up grass.

In the outfield, Abigail reaches the kickball and winds up to hurl it back to Kenji at home base.

Birdy runs faster than she ever has in her life. She's practically a sparkly blur! Finally she SLIDES HOME in a cloud of dust, beating the kickball by a heartbeat.

MS. MORENO
(as umpire)
SAFE!

Everyone <CHEERS> and rushes to gather around Birdy!

BIRDY
Weeeepaaa! Did you see that??

ROSE
It was AMAZING! But... uh oh.

But then the dust clears, and everyone <GASPS!>

Birdy's shoes are coated in dust! There's a big red mark on the toe from the ball and a huge scuff up the sides from sliding home!

Birdy blinks down at them. Everyone braces for the worst...

BIRDY
My sneakers... look SO COOL!

Everyone is shocked.

ABIGAIL
But they're not clean anymore!

BIRDY
I know! They're better! They tell a story now.

Rose and Radish beam. The kids crowd in to get a closer look.

BIRDY (CONT'D)

See, that scuff will just remind me
of the best ever recess when I
played the best ever game with my
best ever friends. EVER! I'd rather
get a lil messy than miss all that.

Birdy shakes the worst of the dust off. Everyone sees that
even with all those scuffs, the shoes are still ruby-red.
They still twinkle in the sun. <EXTRA MAGICAL SPARKLE STING!>
One last time, everybody <SIGHS> in admiration.

ROSE

Soooooooo, can we get back to the
game? After your home run, the
score's all tied up.

BIRDY

Yeah! Let's play!

Birdy runs to the outfield with her friends, jubilant. She's
ready to make the best memories ever in her new kicks.

CURTAIN DROPS.