

Suzuki Early Childhood Music Classes (SECM)

1. Remember that you and your child are coming into an unfamiliar place and unfamiliar room full of unfamiliar adults and children. It is natural for every new family to be apprehensive, especially the children. Children may be extra shy at first.
2. Parents need to participate with their child and have their child with them at all times. As children are easily distracted if your child is upset for any reason please go out of the room and come back in when your child is settled. Learning only takes place in a calm environment.
3. Attending classes regularly helps children feel secure in the class.
4. The SECM class is for mixed ages. At first irrespective of age most children will watch, observing adults and other children. This is natural. Children learn from each other and from all new experiences.
5. No matter how your child reacts they will be watching, listening and taking everything in. Some children choose to participate, others may often be unresponsive, and others may prefer to observe, listen and stay with Mum or Dad the whole time until they feel secure with the new environment. Experiencing and learning will be taking place in every situation. Encouragement is essential. However, never force your child to participate.
6. At home listening to the CDs of the songs and rhymes we use in class helps the children feel secure and focus on activities.
7. Please try not to chat to other parents during the lesson time as it can cause children to lose concentration. Focus on your child. As parents there is a need to model behaviour that you want from your child. Please wait until after the class to chat.
8. Never compare children's accomplishments. All children develop at different rates. It is best not to comment on behaviour or accomplishments that might have a negative impact on your child. Praise, hugs and kisses for all attempts is the way to go.
9. Besides music appreciation the classes could be the first time that your child needs to wait for a turn, needs to be patient and follow a class routine. Children, including young babies, learn so quickly that it doesn't take long for them to know what is expected. Our activities include socialization, emotional growth and self-regulation of actions.
10. Any queries you have please contact the office. 9484 9611

The Suzuki Early Childhood Music program (SECM) has been musically and educational formatted under the guidelines of academic research.

Good News for Suzuki parents and grandparents of our Suzuki Early Childhood Music (SECM) families. You have chosen the most appropriate type of class for your 0-3year old children.

1. *Belonging, Being & Becoming*, the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia produced by the Australian Government © 2009, is the first early years learning framework to be nationally endorsed for use by educators in a range of early childhood settings. Our SECM classes (both the 0-3yrs and 3-5yrs group classes) adhere to all the requirements. Copies of the framework are available on the internet.
2. The Suzuki Early Childhood Music class for 0-3 year olds, as originally devised by Dorothy Jones in Canada, has been used in a scientific research project with some exciting results.

Research Press release:- the interactive class was a SECM class

Science News... *from universities, journals, and other research organizations*
May 9, 2012 Hamilton, Ont. Canada

Babies' brains benefit from music lessons, researchers find

After completing the first study of its kind, researchers at McMaster University have discovered that very early musical training benefits children even before they can walk or talk.

They found that one-year-old babies who participate in interactive music classes with their parents smile more, communicate better and show earlier and more sophisticated brain responses to music.

The findings were published recently in the scientific journals *Developmental Science* and *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*.

“Many past studies of musical training have focused on older children,” says Laurel Trainor, director of the McMaster Institute for Music and the Mind. “Our results suggest that the infant brain might be particularly plastic* with regard to musical exposure.”

Trainor, together with David Gerry, a music educator and graduate student, received an award from the Grammy Foundation in 2008 to study the effects of musical training in infancy. In the recent study, groups of babies and their parents spent six months participating in one of two types of weekly music instruction.

One music class involved interactive music-making and learning a small set of lullabies, nursery rhymes and songs with actions. Parents and infants worked together to learn to play percussion instruments, take turns and sing specific songs.

In the other music class, infants and parents played at various toy stations while recordings from the popular Baby Einstein series played in the background.

Before the classes began, all the babies had shown similar communication and social development and none had previously participated in other baby music classes.

“Babies who participated in the interactive music classes with their parents showed earlier sensitivity to the pitch structure in music,” says Trainor. “Specifically, they preferred to listen to a version of a piano piece that stayed in key, versus a version that included out-of-key notes. Infants who participated in the passive listening classes did not show the same preferences. Even their brains responded to music differently. Infants from the interactive music classes showed larger and/or earlier brain responses to musical tones.”

The non-musical differences between the two groups of babies were even more surprising, say researchers.

Babies from the interactive classes showed better early communication skills, like pointing at objects that are out of reach, or waving goodbye. Socially, these babies also smiled more, were easier to soothe, and showed less distress when things were unfamiliar or didn't go their way.

While both class types included listening to music and all the infants heard a similar amount of music at home, a big difference between the classes was the interactive exposure to music...

Retrieved from

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/opr/html/opr/media/main/NewsReleases/Babiesbrainsbenefitfrommusiclessonsresearchersfind.htm>

If you are interested in reading the full research paper - it's fascinating - please go to http://www.davidgerry.ca/research/gerryunrautrainor_2012.pdf

The interactive class was a Suzuki Early Childhood Music Class.