

Suzuki Early Childhood Music (SECM) classes

Children learn best through moving and listening. Music awakens and stimulates neural pathways in the brain that are associated with higher forms of intelligence, such as abstract thinking, empathy, mathematics and science.

Music's melodic and rhythmic patterns provide exercise for the brain and help develop memory. Studying music helps children establish good listening habits, which are essential for achievement in life skills

Overall, music activities are perfect for child development. Music immerses the child in language, movement, stimulates the brain and fosters physical coordination - all in a group setting that builds community- a holistic experience.

The Suzuki Early Childhood Music curriculum is unique among movement and music classes. The curriculum is based on a mastery of concepts and the development of ability.

Our early childhood music programme helps parents embrace their role as their child's most significant teachers by helping them observe and celebrate their child's social, emotional, mental, physical and musical development.

Children learn to:-

- * Recognize and mimic a rhythmic sequence of sounds,
- * Sing in tune and match pitches, understand concept of up and down
- * Move creatively to music
- * Produce big and small motions, fine to gross motor skills
- * Understand dynamic differences of loud and soft
- * Develop a good sense of tempo, maintain and anticipate a steady beat
- * Listen carefully and follow directions
- * Maintain focus and concentration through the lesson
- * Social skills through sharing, taking turns, accepting guidance, waiting and anticipation

Skills

Language	Self Expression	Memory Skills	Concentration	Social Interaction
Teamwork	Fine Motor Skills	Listening	Problem Solving	Goal Setting
Self Esteem	Coordination	Music Playing	Family Involvement	Creativity
Confidence	Voice Expression	Emotional Development		



0-3yrs SECM program

Suzuki Early Childhood Music is a weekly 50 – 60 minute class for children and a ‘grown up’. A teacher leads the class in singing, dancing, twirling, chanting, stomping, tip-toeing, clapping, counting, taking turns, reading, exploring pitch and rhythm on baby/child-friendly real instruments, and listening to classical music.

Young children feel comfortable with routine. We advise that it is best to purchase the CDs which contain the music and songs that are used in class. Listening to the CDs will further assist in developing a good musical ear and help your child to learn and feel more comfortable in the class.

The music classes follow a 2 week program (with variations) using the following activities

Ball rolling – mostly to Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (Mozart) played quietly in the background (for children who are capable we sometimes include counting)

Greeting song

Listening/ Movement – drum circle and glockenspiel activity

Beat Activity

Timing Activity

Circle song

Action song

“Duet” Activity

Creative movement – Dancing with shakers, ribbons, scarves etc

“Falling 3rd” song (with xylophone)

Finger play/Clapping activity

Ensemble activity

Bouncing rhyme

Story time - either sung or chanted

Observations - parents write observations in their child’s progress book while children “read” books.

When the child graduates from the program the parents are given the progress books as a memento of their child’s progress.

Goodbye song

The philosophy behind the Suzuki Early Childhood Music Program:-

Every child can learn

Ability develops early

Environment nurtures growth

Children learn from one another

Success breeds success

Parent involvement is critical

Encouragement is essential

Preschool SECM Program These classes are an extension of the 0-3yrs program

Some of the activities that may be included in the classes:-

Listening/ Movement – drum circle and glockenspiel activity
 Beat and Timing Activities. Use of Kodaly method of teaching
 “Duet” and Ensemble Activities
 Dalcroze Eurhythmic and creative movement – Dancing with shakers, ribbons, scarves, feathers
 Singing
 Xylophone – use of sol fa and Curwen hand signs.
 Music Mind Games activities and later use of French time names and sol fa,
 Simple age appropriate music notation symbols
 Finger play, clapping, castanet or other percussion activities

You can check on the internet for information on the Kodaly method, Dalcroze Eurhythmics and Music Mind Games

During classes

- As we are fostering musical sensitivity and keen auditory skills please do not chat to other grown-ups during the lesson.
- If your child becomes agitated please move outside for a short time until he/she is calm and ready to be with the group.
- Most of the activities are done by the children themselves. If you child is having difficulties please feel free to assist your child.

We advise that it is best to purchase the CD FOUR LITTLE ENGINES which contains the songs that are used in class. Listening to the CD will further assist in developing a good musical ear and help your child to learn and feel more comfortable in the class

Before classes

Please ensure that your child has

1. has been fed or had a drink and non sugar snack
2. has a clean nappy or has been to the toilet
3. clean face and hands
4. If you child is not well please do not come to class – young children are susceptible to infection

Before you come in please TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE, remove your shoes and settle your child. Adults can wear socks (or stockings). Bare feet is better for children as bare feet helps exercise the muscles and promotes balance. Except for valuable items please leave shoes and bags etc outside in the hall. No food or drink is permitted inside the house. Please do not bring comforters or toys into the music room. Thank you.

Please wait outside in the hall until the previous class has finished. Thank you.

During classes

You can help your child to learn and focus on the sounds and actions of the class by participating actively so your child has a familiar model to follow. Wear comfortable clothes as both you and your child will be up and down off the floor. Please don't force your child to do anything – just do it yourself and keep smiling at your child. When capable and/or ready, your child will copy you or the other children and join in. You must not feel embarrassed if your child does not appear to be participating, major learning is taking place all the time just through being there in the class and observing.

- Please keep your child with you at all times.
- As we are fostering musical sensitivity and keen auditory skills please do not chat to your child or other grown-ups during the lesson as it distracts the children.
- Please try not to speak too much to your child – actions speak louder than words
- All children learn by observation and this is especially true for younger children. We encourage mixed age group classes as children learn best from one another.
- If your child becomes agitated please move outside into the hall for a short time until he/she is calm and ready to be with the group. Learning takes place in a calm environment.
- At the end of the class please write in your child's progress book (provided), commenting on some achievement you have noticed, however small. This will be given to you while the children 'read' their own books.