



Why Early Childhood Music Education?

Research has shown that babies, from fetus to toddler, respond intuitively to music.

When observing babies and young children, we see how naturally and instinctively they respond to music. The infant and toddler exposed to music can later concentrate and learn more quickly, showing advanced verbal skills and coordination.

Research has also shown that music for the very young child generates neural connections, uniquely enhancing higher brain functions that enable a child to reason abstractly in subjects such as math, physics, and engineering.



The impulse to move, speak, sing and play rhythmically is a natural and vital part of being human. Yet so often we see music as a special gift for the talented few. Just as babies learn to speak and understand our language before they learn to read and write it, music is also learned in this way!

Before we sign up a young child for a private music lesson that introduces specific skills including reading and playing an instrument such as violin or piano, we need to teach the young child timing, listening, and singing skills. The most successful way to begin their music

education is to develop these skills by participating in group music-making that includes singing, dancing, and the playing of age-appropriate instruments such as hand drums, shakers, and rhythm sticks.

The age appropriate musical curriculum taught at **Priscilla's Musik'n'Motion** is a joyful and exciting experience for the very young child. This approach to music uses singing, movement, and instrument-playing to teach music. By participating in these lessons prior to private music lessons, the child will become a better musician and will be more successful in private instrument lessons at an older age.

Music is an essential component of early childhood development. When included in a child's early education, the following benefits are seen:

- Music promotes learning!
- Music, at a very young age, has a dramatic impact on a child's language development.
- Timing activities develop motor skills, body awareness, and spatial concepts.
- Listening, comparing, and responding to various types of music develops thinking skills, while songs, rhymes, and finger games strengthen memory.
- Repeating patterns and counting beats develop math and literacy skills.
- Participating in group dance and musical games encourages social skills.

Obviously, music is very valuable for the joy of the music itself. Music improves the quality of life. Both adults and children are happy when music is added to their day. Stressful situations seem easier when singing a song or humming a familiar tune!

