

How Can You Help Your Child?

Have the Music at Home

Levels 1-5 have curriculum songs available for home use. Play these at home or in the car. By having the music in the child's day to day life they come to music already knowing some songs and absorb the learning in class more readily.

Songs are available on CD or as a download. These may be ordered when you enrol.

Levels 1-3

Parents/caregivers join in with the children. It is very important that you participate in the activities and show your child your enjoyment. Don't feel frustrated if your child isn't joining in yet. Often at this age children internalize the information for later use. During the toddler period lots of mental processes are developing, e.g. memory growth, a lot is happening in their head that can't be seen. They need to be able to process the information without pressure, but with support and encouragement. Children new to the sessions also need time to acclimatize to the new environment. A toddler's concentration is very short, and we keep the sessions moving for this reason. If your child needs to wander off, please go with them then gently encourage them back in to the group.

During the session:

- Join in beside and with your child. The child will be a lot more focused if you are doing the same things as them in the class.
- Keep a steady beat on your child's shoulder or other body part during instrumental activities to help him/her feel the beat (if your child will let you).
- Sing with your child, even if you think you can't sing. They are not concerned with accurate pitch as a pre-schooler, but more with enjoyment and enthusiasm. When parents join in with enthusiasm it makes the session fun for everyone.
- If your child becomes upset for whatever reason, please retreat to the foyer and come back to the group when he/she is settled.
- Stay focused, please don't chat.
- Encourage your child and enjoy the time together.

Levels 4

This is often a transitional stage of development. Many children aged 4 are becoming more social and independent. They therefore need less support from their caregiver. However, all children are different, and we leave this decision entirely up to the child. Your child may want you to be in the circle with them or may choose to be independent. Either, or a combination, is fine. However, if you notice that your child's behaviour is slowing down the group, please join in and support us. We need to encourage socially appropriate behaviour, for the sake of the progress of the whole group. As teachers we don't want to spend time re-focussing children who find it hard to work in a group.

There are other times when we will request some support, for example in a tricky dance, for notational activities, or for playing instruments in parts. However, we don't need all the parents, if you are tending to little ones we will manage without you. It is important to note here that for safety reasons we can't have siblings on the move in the class.

From level 4 onwards, where concentration is developing more, it is a major distraction to have other children moving or making sounds in the room. Please bring quiet activities or use the foyer.

Levels 5, 6, 7

These children are more independent. Once children are settled, please feel free to watch from the side. Please remember not to chat and keep siblings out of the teaching area.

Marimba Group

Come and listen and enjoy your child's progress.

We need help from parents to transport children and instruments when we have concerts organised. And we love having you watch and clap loudly!