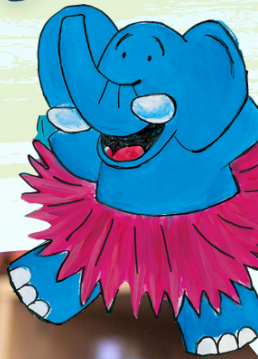


Why Kids need Music

PARENT GUIDE



Harness the hidden power of learning music to create a smarter, happier, healthier, more confident and capable child... And the best thing is - it's fun!

As a parent, you want the very best for your children. You're eager to give them every opportunity to reach their full potential ... and be the best they can be.

Providing an opportunity for your child to learn music can equip your child with skills that last a lifetime. We all want our children to succeed at school and ultimately succeed later in life. But more importantly, we want happy children who develop into happy, confident, well-adjusted adults.

Participating in a quality learning experience with a small group of other children provides an opportunity for children to:

- encourage learning, problem solving and creativity;
- develop qualities such as generosity, compassion, and respect,
- develop and enhance fine motor & gross motor capabilities; and
- build confidence and self-esteem.



While there is no replacement for a supportive and loving home environment, active engagement in music-making has been proven to significantly influence future academic success. And.. you'll be rewarded with smiles, love, laughter, and a sense of wonder and accomplishment as your child grows, learns, and succeeds.



Make music a part of your child's life today!

There's no need to wait ... you can introduce your child to the enriching world of music right now and see the benefits immediately. Start by making music a natural part of your everyday life.

Some tips to get you started at home:

- ✓ Sing with your child whenever you can. In the car is a great place to start. Listen to your Jungle Music track and sing along. If you don't have the track, sing the songs from your class. If you can't remember the words, make them up and personalise them for your own family.
- ✓ Make music part of your family rituals. Sing your favourite lullaby at bedtime or a special song for birthdays. Make up a "putting on shoes song" to the tune of Farmer In the Dell. Take simple little nursery rhymes and change the words to suit your child!
- ✓ Children's voices and bodies are their first musical instruments! Encourage them to discover all the sounds they can make using their bodies; clapping, tapping, beating their chest, kissing, the list is endless.
- ✓ Give your child a taste of music from other cultures; Celtic, Polynesian, and African styles all have their own feel and are exciting for young children's ears. Scarves, ribbons, and bells all add to the experience.
- ✓ Dance with your child. Pick them up and swish them through the air. Stand them on your feet and waltz with them. Teach them simple clapping patterns.
- ✓ Play different kinds of music; soft and soothing, lively and exciting, slow and sombre. Encourage your child to respond to the music, moving their bodies or talking about how it makes them feel. Give them crayons or paints and let them draw to the music.



How learning music affects brain development...

Music is a universal language and mankind's oldest art form. Even before a child learns to speak, they learn to communicate and connect with song and sound. Children take to music naturally. Some suggest that babies are born with inherent musical capabilities because their responses to music are immediate and instinctive: they are not learned.



While every child can enjoy, learn and grow through music, there is increasing evidence to show that active participation in musical activities can actually alter the anatomy of the brain. Researchers believe that early musical experiences intensify the development of neuronal synapses. By increasing the number of interconnections between brain cells, music essentially enhances a child's ability to think, learn, reason and create.

It is important to note however, that for music to have a profound effect on brain development, a child must physically engage in musical activities. Furthermore, these activities must provide a comprehensive sensory experience. It is not enough for a child just to listen to music. They need to take part – to feel, make, hear and memorize sounds and patterns; to sing, clap dance and remember movements

The quality and timing of these musical experiences are paramount. Ideally, parents should aim to expose their children to musical activities prior to age two when the proliferation of neuronal synapses is at its peak. However, the number of synapses remains elevated until a child is around 10 years of age, so the benefits of music can still be realised in older children. Dr Gordon Shaw, a world-renowned pioneer in music and brain studies with over 25 years of research, describes “music as a window into higher brain function”.



www.fortemusic.com.au/musicbrain



Download the free in depth Special Report to read about the 9 key elements of early childhood development and how they influence your child's ability at school.

These elements represent the most important senses and skills that must be cultivated for your child to reach their full potential:



Self Esteem



Intellectual Development



Fine Motor Development



Social Skills



Language



Gross Motor Development



Emotional Development



Literacy



Sensory Motor Development



Download

www.fortemusic.com.au/junglemusic

Research findings worldwide have discovered:

- Music lessons have been shown to improve a child's performance in school. In a recent experiment, after 8 months of lessons, pre-schoolers showed a 46% boost in their spatial IQ which is crucial for higher brain functions such as mathematics. Students who were exposed to music-based lessons scored a full 100% higher on fraction texts than those who learned in a conventional manner.
- Research reveals that preschool years are the optimal "learning time" for developing musical ability.
- Young children with developed rhythm skills perform better academically.
- In a ten-year study in the US, which tracked over 25,000 students, a direct correlation between music studies and improved school results has been acknowledged.
- A two-year study in Switzerland involving 1,200 children in 50 classes, scientifically demonstrated how music improved children's reading and verbal skills through enhanced concentration, memory, and self-expression. Other findings revealed that the children in the study had better interpersonal relationships, experienced a greater enjoyment of school, were less stressed during testing, and were better able to handle performance pressures.
- A series of studies conducted in Europe in the 1950s concluded that learning and playing music not only improved academic performance but also improved memory, reasoning, working as a team, time management, and the ability to think creatively.
- Music is now being recognised as a form of intelligence, not just a manifestation of it.

Sources:

International Foundation for Music Research, www.music-research.org; American Music Conference, www.amc-music.org; American Music Association, www.americanmusic.org; Australian Music Association, www.australianmusic.asn.au.

Feel free to invite your friends to join you for a lesson!

