

Singing Voices



Fall 2009
Volume 2
Issue 1

A NOTE FROM JULIE

Dear Families,

I hope you have been enjoying the Fiddle Collection this semester! Please feel free to share your musical stories with your teacher and classmates - we love to hear what is going on at home as it can build connections for teachers in the classroom and it can spark ideas for other families.

I am so excited about our new "Growing and Learning with Music Together" Chart created by Music Together National Headquarters. The chart helps adults to identify how children are "Discovering, Developing and Maturing" through their journey with Music Together. We will be handing these charts out in our classes over the next two weeks so be sure to get one.

Don't forget about our upcoming Family Jam...singing, dancing, instrument play and some really terrific door prizes!

In harmony,

Julie

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WHAT'S NEW

Have you been to our website lately? If you haven't visited us online in awhile you should. Our web address is the same (musictogetherCTclass.com) but the look and content are fresh! Check it out and be on the lookout for more fresh updates in the future.

WHAT'S AHEAD

The Fall semester runs through Tuesday, 12/12/09
Classes will not be held on 11/26, 11/27 or 11/28
Please refer to FALL 2009 PARENT INFORMATION on our website for site-specific schedule information

The Winter session will begin January 11th, 2010.
Early registration will begin in two weeks.

The Family Jam is BACK!
Sunday, 11/15 from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
at Creative Music in Monroe

Drop in, sing along, build community!! There will be door prizes including CD's, instruments and Gift Certificate for 50% off your next semester.
Please RSVP. Hope to see you there!!

Babies Workshop
Saturday, 11/21 (time and location TBA)
For families with babies 8 months or younger.
A hands-on workshop with your infant (no older siblings please)
Come coo and snuggle with us as we guide you through a variety of ways to interact musically with your baby in a mixed-age setting.

Community Outreach - Research & Development News

Music Together has been a pioneer in providing people who would otherwise not get to experience Music Together with an opportunity to do so through their various outreach programs. Some of the groups who have benefited from Music Together Outreach programs include children in low-income or at-risk families, children with special needs, teen mothers and their babies, the elderly, and migrant workers and their families.

One of Music Together's largest and newest outreach programs is right here in Bridgeport, CT. Music Together's partnership with ABCD (Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Charles Tisdale, Director) was spearheaded by Music Together of Fairfield County Director, Jackie Jacobs with Music Together of Monroe/Newtown's Director, Julie Capuano serving as Assistant Director. Jackie, Julie, and a team of local Music Together Specialists (including Lis Rothchild, and Elise Miller) are teaching and developing the Music Together preschool curriculum as part of their work with classroom teachers, children, and parents within the community. This work is one part of the Total Learning Initiative (TLI), a multi-year, federal and state funded project for children 0-9 years old that uses arts education to bridge the achievement gap.

A large-scale study was undertaken during the 2007-2008 academic year in order to evaluate and understand how the Music Together Preschool model supports overall learning within the preschool curriculum. These evaluations were conducted by an outside, independent research and evaluation organization, the Michael Cohen Group. This study was funded by the Connecticut Assembly and the U.S. Department of Education. We shared the preliminary findings with you last October. Here now are the conclusive results of the study, proof positive that music learning supports all learning:

Over the course of the '07-'08 academic year, four-year-olds in preschool classrooms assigned to receive Total Learning's Music Together program made significantly greater progress in the Cognitive, Language, and Physical developmental domains than did four-year-olds in classrooms that did not participate in the program.

- Cognitive developmental gains. Pre-schoolers participating in Total Learning's Music Together program made significantly greater gains in cognitive skills (problem-solving) than did preschoolers who did not participate in the program, $t(471) = -2.453, p = .01$.*
- Language development gains. Children assigned to receive Music Together made significantly greater gains in language acquisition and verbal fluency than did children who did not participate in the program, $t(471) = 2.811, p < .001$.*
- Physical development domain. Four-year-olds in classrooms assigned to receive Music Together made significantly greater gains in physical development (coordination) than did children in classrooms that did not participate in the program, $t(471) = -2.310, p < .05$.*
- Four-year-olds in preschool classrooms assigned to receive Total Learning's Music Together program also made greater gains in the Social-Emotional developmental domain (self-esteem, self-confidence) than did preschoolers in classrooms that did not participate in the program, $p < .1$.*

MAKING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MUSIC TOGETHER EXPERIENCE Bringing Harmony Home

One of our roles as teachers is to provide parents and caregivers with suggestions for extending and deepening their Music Together experience within the home environment, the child's first classroom -- the place where your child will most often exhibit musical behaviors that put them on the path to Basic Music Competence (the ability to sing in tune and keep a beat). Here are some at home suggestions for the songs in the Fiddle Collection:

Crawdad

This song works wonderfully as a transition song. Sing your infant through their bedtime routine (Let's take a bath now, honey Giving you a goodnight kiss, honey etc.). Prepare your toddler for the day ahead (We'll go to the library, honey ... Goin' to the grocery store, honey etc.). Make a song game out of clean-up time for older children (Put away a red toy, honey Put away a block now, honey etc.)

Apples and Cherries

Sing a verse or two using a cooing or consonant sound that your baby makes (ah, ba, da, etc.) and use an exaggerated facial expression while singing. Substitute the foods on your toddler's plate (chicken nuggets, sweet potatoes, peas and apples) or the foods you are preparing in the kitchen, ingredients you are adding to a dish, etc. Use the songbook and ask your older toddler which fruit is missing from the picture then ask them to draw it.

Old King Cole

Decorate homemade paper crowns, put out some scarves, collect paper towel tubes for the instruments.

Can You Do This?

Make a painting together while listening to the CD. Let the different sounds you hear inspire you as you create .

Here is the Beehive

Place 5 blocks or shapes inside of a box and pretend it is a beehive while singing this rhythmic chant together.

Shenandoah, Shady Grove, Butterfly

Place the names of all of the lullabies you've learned on little slips of paper and place them in a small jar in your child's room. Have your child pick a lullaby from the jar at night as part of their bedtime routine.