

How to Have a Successful Class with Music Together® Online

Dear Musical Families,

Here are some tips for success and what to expect with Music Together Online.

DO's and DON'Ts

- **DO:** Allow your child to move around freely and comfortably at home during class. They need to 'do their own thing' (safely of course) in order to experience the music in their own way.
- **DON'T:** Expect your child to sit and watch the screen. With the magic of music, they don't *need* to actively pay attention (or participate) in order to benefit!
- **DO:** Relax and trust that whatever way they are experiencing class is completely normal and developmentally-appropriate!
- **DON'T:** Try to make your child do what the teacher is doing. Allow their arms and hands to be free to move (or not) in their own way.

Just like in-person classes, your child might be wandering/playing/dancing/resting/exploring on their own while you sing with the teacher. This is normal for this age, so don't be discouraged. Even if they seem to be ignoring you, or fussing, or doing something completely different, they will STILL be soaking in the rich musical learning!

Some children will also participate by quietly watching, copying what you and the teacher are doing, singing or dancing on their own, or making up their own actions.

Depending on their learning style, personality, musical experience, familiarity with the teacher, age and developmental level, each child will experience the class in their own unique way.

Over 40 years of Music Together's ongoing research has shown us we can truly trust the music and the natural process of play-based learning.

- **DO:** Participate enthusiastically! YOU are your child's best teacher, so this class is about YOU! The teacher will be there through the screen as a guide for the GROWNUP. All you need to do is sing along with the teacher and follow their actions to "bring the music to life" for your child.
- **DON'T:** Worry about being perfect, or getting it "right." It doesn't even have to be in tune or sound "good." To your child, your voice is the most beautiful sound in the world. Give yourself permission to relax, have fun, and be playful and silly, just like your child!
- **DO:** Feel free to come and go from the circle as needed to care for your child. Just like in an in-person class, if your child needs a break, no problem! Just come back as soon as you are ready and jump back in.
- **DO:** Try your best to arrive on time. You can sign in to the class a few minutes ahead even if you are not quite ready (just jump in when you get there). This will save the teacher from having to let a bunch of people in once class has started.
- **DO:** Listen to the music lots and lots, so you and your child can get familiar with the songs and have a rich and interactive Music Together Online experience.

It can sometimes take a little while for a child (and parent) to become familiar with a new setting and new music. Eventually they will get used to having this family music time and it can become more interactive.

So just remember to *keep playing the songs* (every day is best!) and *showing your enthusiastic participation* in class in order to give your child the most benefit.

Have a wonderful semester!

If you have any concerns or questions, you can ask your teacher during visiting time at the end of class, email the office, or call Heidi McCurdy the Director at 604-538-7154.

Ideas for Homemade Instruments

Did you know your home is already full of fun and educational musical instruments?

This semester, we will use a variety of sounds found at home for making music. Your teacher will let you know at the beginning of class which specific items you will use.

Here are some ideas for sounds to gather:

- Something to SHAKE: small containers filled with beans or rice (re-purposed vitamin bottles are a great size), salt shaker, cereal box, etc. Sabrielle has made a video with a shaker craft that you can try too.
- Some STICKS: wooden spoons, chopsticks, metal spoons, pens, whisk
- Something to DRUM: plastic coffee or yogurt containers, upside down tubs, cardboard box. You can use your sticks and/or hands for drumming. (Note: Metal pots can be fun but are also very loud!)
- Something to TING: metal water bottle, ceramic cup, metal mixing bowl
- Something to WAVE: lightweight scarf, pillow case or tea towel