EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In 2013, we launched the Music and Movement Class for caregivers and babies (0 to 3) in an effort to bring families together, promote healthy brain development, and encourage music making at the most basic level in the home. The class also helps support language development, literacy and to build social and emotional skills.

During the first three years of life, a baby’s brain will make more neural connections (millions per second) than any other time; ever. The brain is far more impressionable (plastic/malleable) and is more open to learning and enriching influences. In today’s fast paced world, whether families have one or two working parents, we find that they often work multiple jobs just to make end meet leaving little or no time for family (parent-child) bonding. This can negatively impact their brain development by making them more vulnerable to developmental problems if their environment is un-nurturing. This class is an opportunity for caregivers to bond with their child while making music and learning how to recognize developmental milestones such as language development and musical and rhythmic behaviors in their child. The longer the child is exposed to this information in their early life the less likely he or she will be able to forget the learning that has already taken place (connections/synapses will remain forever). Caregivers can adapt and use this knowledge in the classroom, at home and beyond.

The three main techniques are:

1) Orff-rhythm and instrument play-Thinking skills
2) Kodaly- Tonality memorization using traditional music and hand movements
3) Dalcroze Eurhythmics-Physical awareness, movement and coordination

Using a combination of these techniques along with a hand-picked repertoire of traditional American and international folk songs helps instill a love for music and exploration of the many possibilities for self expression.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
• Chants – Isolation of language and rhythm (language development)
• Songs without words-immediate participation and identification/memorization of melodic line
• Tonal and Rhythmic patterns – Isolation of a skill (rhythm or Tonality), Opportunity for improvisation
• Movement-Focus on physically performing specific rhythms, identification of up/down, left right coordination

Tools: Rhythm (Orff)
  Percussion Instruments
  Maracas
  Claves
  Bells
  Shakers
  Sticks, etc.
  Movement/Eurhythmics
  Balls/Motion
  Scarves/self-expression
  Stretchy bands/tension & release

Traditional Songs (Kodaly)
  Familiar Melody
  Repetitive phrases – rhythm development
  Easy Lyrics -Language Development
  Easy Structure / Easy improvisation /familiar

Rituals
  Hello
  Jam Session
  Lullaby
  Goodbye