

WHAT DOES MUSIC TEACH CHILDREN?

All children love music regardless of language, culture, and age. Music can calm fussy babies and be an expression of joy for preschoolers. Research shows that using music and movement together uses both sides of the brain.

Music can help children:

- Develop language and listening skills
- Develop coordination
- Express their feelings
- Learn about sequencing
- Learn about sounds and patterns
- Learn fast, slow, loud, and soft

Infants feel the vibrations of your body as well as hear your voice when you sing. They love soft voices and lullabies.

Toddlers enjoy jumping and rocking back and forth to music. They are developing their motor skills, and they enjoy simple rhythm instruments such as shakers.

Two-year-olds enjoy simple fingerplays such as "Where is Thumbkin?" They can sing simple songs.

Three-year-olds can clap hands and stamp feet, gallop, and jump. They enjoy exploring a variety of rhythm instruments.

Four-year-olds love silly songs, sounds, and words. They can begin to march and act out songs. They like simple games such as "Hokey Pokey".

Five-year-olds are developing more complex rhythm and coordination. Clapping to the beat and imitating rhythms are skills this age can master.

Adapted from: Silberg, Jackie (1998). The I can't sing book: for grownups who can't carry a tune in a paper bag but want to do music with young children. Gryphon House.

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