

What Happens While We're Having Fun in Music Class?

Early childhood music classes encourage the development of:

Bonds between child and parent/caregiver:

parent participation in entire class
weekly home activities and suggestions for recordings and stories relating to class experience

Vocal Skills:

singing simple tonal and modal songs
vocal exploration
encouraging independent singing
emphasis on vocal awareness

Tonal Awareness:

songs and echoing isolated tonal patterns as a group and individually
use of specific pitches and intervals with singing voice
awareness of specific pitches and intervals

Rhythmic Awareness:

rhymes
songs
movement to music
echoing rhythmic patterns as a group and individually
use of more complex rhythmic patterns
reading and performing rhythm patterns
using specific rhythm language
reading simple rhythmic patterns

Movement skills and coordination:

gross and fine motor movement to music and verse
expressive movement accompanying song content
movement to a musical cue
expressive movement to music and stories
beginning to label movements to help build movement vocabulary
singing and moving games
simple dances
expressive movement to experience musical concepts
emphasis on motor exploration and control
attention to fine motor development through drawing and playing

Reading and Writing Skills:

reading and writing note values and staff pitches
reading and writing rhythms
experience with melodic notation
musical numbers and letters