



# MUSIC MATTERS

*A Newsletter for Families in the Music Masters Program  
Fall 2004*

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...  
LEARNING IS EXPERIENCE. EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST INFORMATION.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

## ***Music-in-the-Box presents Music Masters in Lake Zurich***

**We are happy to announce our latest  
Lake County Park District in The Village  
Of Lake Zurich.**

If you know of anyone living in the Lake Zurich area, please let them know about our classes. We will be offering Music Masters 1, Music Masters 2, and Baby Music Masters, as well as our new Music And Memories (Kreative Kids) craft course for very young children ages 18 mo - 3yrs.

### ***IN MY OPINION...***

***Letter from MITB President, Meredith Haynes***

If I had to think of a never-ending constant with children, it is movement. I think movement is a good thing and, in my opinion, music is best learned through movement. I'd like to share with you some insights I learned about the importance of movement while reading the book Smart Moves by C. Hannaford, Ph.D.

- ♪ There are more than just the five senses (seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching)...scientists recognize two additional senses—vestibular and proprioception--sensory input about gravity, motion, muscle movement and where we are in space. We need to be certain our children are progressing in ALL their senses.
- ♪ Children in Denmark's school system experience movement and rhythm in all learning. This can be linked to Denmark's boast of 100% literacy! Wow!
- ♪ For thought, there must be movement. When we write, when we speak, when we type, when we tap a pencil—this movement aids thinking.

Let's shed the old notion that children must always sit still to pay attention.

In our music classes we move to learn:

- ♪ Rhythm and words of music
- ♪ Rhythm and words of poetry
- ♪ Tempo
- ♪ Dynamics
- ♪ Octaves
- ♪ Where we are in space

This is a good reminder to turn off the TV and computer—and turn on the opportunity for real learning--through movement.

## **TIPS FOR MUSICAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS *Catalog Items From Music-in-the-Box***

It's that time of year again—time to choose healthy and productive gifts for our children. Parents have been asking us to provide them with materials they can use at home. We have included our preliminary catalog to help out. Here are a few of our favorite musical choices:



1. Carnival of the Animals book and CD by Saint-Saens; illustrated by Sue Williams. This is the music we use in class. It makes a great guessing game

when the CD player is placed on random. Buy our set of museum-quality animals called *St. Saen's Carnival Collectables* for use with the book. When you feel your child knows all the movements, place the animals in the bag and play a movement. Then have the child feel in the bag for the animal that goes with your chosen piece. A great multi-sensory activity that provides fun for both parent and child.



2. Music-in-the-Box's signature Jack-in-the-Box (no picture) brings a sense of nostalgia to any home. Children of all ages delight in the simple melody and surprise leap of the clown as he pops out of the box.
3. Music-in-the-Box's signature Band-in-a-Bag provides your child with all of the instruments he or she uses in the Music-in-the-Box classroom.



Making music at home provides a comforting link between classroom experiences and the safety of their own special place. Combine with Hap Palmers Rhythms on Parade and a set of Rainbow Scarves and you create a multi-sensory music environment for hours of silly fun and quality music learning.

4. Music-in-the-Box also provides a selection of favorite CD's with songs used in our music classes. For example, Greg and Steve's Kids in Motion will provide a variety of music and movement choices to use at home.



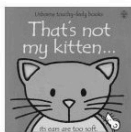
5. Another popular CD is Laurie Berkner's Buzz Buzz. With so many fun activity and listening skill songs, this is the perfect CD for children ages 2 and up and makes any car trip more fun!



6. Did you know My Many Colored Days is available with a classical music CD and corresponding scarf set? For use on many levels, this scarf set can help teach color, introduce emotion words and help parents provide tactile interaction activities. Using the classical CD emphasized beauty – in color, in song, in feeling.



7. Usborne provides a series of tactile books we feel are essential for your Montessori siblings ages 2 and under (but don't be surprised if your big kids read them too). All books start with **"That's Not My..."** Each page has a different texture and part of the animal, train, car, etc. Use with the song "Go Tell Aunt Rhody" as we do in class, the lyric melody works very well with the poem, and the refrain can be used as an anticipation device signaling it is time to turn the page.



8. Specialty Kits are also available. These kits are not part of any one curriculum but may be used as needed for teaching themes. One example of a specialty kit is our Over The Rainbow and Hush newborn gift sets. New parents will delight in the soft textures of scarves or bunnies with familiar melodies to share with baby.



9. Also available, our God Bless America kit, created in the spirit of patriotism honoring all who live in this great land. The kit comes with a book and Kimbo's Songs of America CD as well as small wooden/cloth flags. A fun way to introduce patriotism to children.

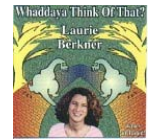


## CURRICULUM

Fall 2 Theme: Cat and Mouse - unique features:



- *The classic book "The Cat Came Back" illustrated by Bill Slavin is a timeless favorite among children and adults alike. The lesson: perseverance. Song found on "Whaddaya Think Of That" CD by Laurie Berkner.*
- *Remember "The Lion Sleeps Tonight (Wemowah)"? We use this popular classic to illustrate tempo change in our older children, Music Makers 2 and 3. Children love sleeping like a lion and dancing to the jungle sounds in this popular classic also on the "Whaddaya Think of That CD".*
- *Our march, "Stray Cat Strut" by the Stray Cats is an example of Music-In-The-Box's willingness to create an eclectic music experience for your child. This bluesy strut will have your child marching on their toes and wagging their "tales" to a tune most parents will remember.*
- *The lullaby, "Wynken, Blynken & Nod" has been beautifully illustrated into a magical story for children. Together with the soothing voice quality of the Doobie Brothers, your children can relax in your arms or sit up by the book and enjoy the magic of the artwork.*
- *The adorable animals and catchy tune of Fiddle-I-Fee will have you and your child tapping and rocking to the rhythm beautifully created by this traditional American song. Adapted and illustrated by Melissa Sweet, this is a must-have for any parent's music songbook collection.*



Please use order form attached to this newsletter for merchandise featured above. Be sure to include payment in the form of a check or money order for the total amount plus 6.75% tax. Thank you!

*From the people you trust at Music-in-the-Box*

## Early Literacy Development

By *Ginger Acopiado*, *Creative Partner and the VP of Training and Development for Music-in-the-Box*. She is the creator of *Music Maestros For The Pre-school Classroom ages 3-6*, currently being used at *Village Green Montessori*.

You love your children, read to them, play with them and then around fifth grade, whoops! Your A/B student begins to fail courses. School stops being fun, home stops being fun and your once adorable child becomes distant and withdrawn. What happened? Your child may not be able to read.

By fifth grade, if a child has not developed grade level appropriate reading skills, he can begin to lag behind. All subjects now require reading: science, social studies, history, geography, etc. Non-readers or deficit readers can fall through the cracks through kinesthetic and auditory learning until now. But we can create a love of books so great that if a child has difficulty reading, they will still *want* to learn how.

*The cornerstone of early language and literacy development is exposure and positive daily experience with books and language. Let's use an example. If every time a child becomes verbal, a pacifier is put in their mouth, the child learns early on that what they have to say is not valued. The same is true of books. If each time an infant puts a book into their mouth, the book is whisked away; the infant begins to see handling books as a "no-no" and begins to draw negative associations. The good news here is that infants have short memories and if we correct our impulse to remove books from our babies, we can reverse these negative associations. As found in a recent study, "Looking at early literacy development as a dynamic developmental process, we can see the connection (and meaning) between an infant mouthing a book, the book handling behavior of a two year old and the page turning of a five year old. We can see that the first three years of exploring and playing with books, singing nursery rhymes, listening to stories, recognizing words, and scribbling are truly the building blocks for language and literacy development."*

However, you should try to teach your child to read. Pushing a child to read who isn't ready creates a negative association with reading that once ingrained, is difficult to overcome. Studies show, "Formal instruction to require young children who are not developmentally ready to read is counter productive

and potentially damaging to children, who may begin to associate reading and books with failure."

"Read it again!" The study goes on to say, "Repetition can help a toddler feel safe and secure... Although adults may tire of the same book, young children need to hear the same story many times to fully understand the chain of events. Hearing a story over and over helps a toddler learn about word sounds, meaning, rhythm, and intonation, in addition to developing an understanding of connected events. At this age, practice play (doing things over and over) also helps toddlers learn."

Here are some practical tips you can use today.

1. Establish a reading time. With one book; two books, or whatever you decide, but do not let it become a struggle. Discuss the number of books you will read with your child before you begin and try to use the same number each time.
2. Read to your child at the pace they set. If your child wants to talk about a page, make sure you allow them to share their thoughts with you instead of racing them on to the next page. This type of interaction allows the child to connect to the story, an important skill for later comprehension.
3. Ask questions while you read. Your child may need help becoming an interactive reader. Asking questions can help build self esteem too, as your child realizes their input has value. A positive way to move along a "chatty" toddler, is to answer their question with an excited, "I don't know, let's turn the page and see!"
4. Remember where your child is at developmentally. Infants learn through their mouths. Have plenty of soft books, board books and rubber books so their first experiences are all positive. Toddlers should be allowed to build with their board books, or do other creative non-reading activities when they choose. This is a good time to keep a basket of board books in the family room or buy box-set nursery rhymes, alphabet books, etc. Pre-schoolers can be taught about book care. Have board books available for interactive play, but intersperse their library with "good" books so that a special book can be placed lovingly upon the shelf after reading. This the time to introduce a reference book or two on a favorite subject. Questions about a dinosaur? "I don't know, let's look it up in the book!"

Remember that children who love books will want to read. Children who read generally enjoy school more than those for whom reading is not pleasurable or is too difficult.



# MUSIC MATTERS AT HOME

## PRODUCT ORDER FORM

Fax orders to: 847-573-9280 Tel Orders: 847-573-1901

Or Order Online: [www.musicinthebox.com](http://www.musicinthebox.com)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

KIT/ITEM NAME (i.e. Brown Bear Kit)	DESCRIPTION (Book/CD/Felt Set)	QTY	PRICE
<b>Sub-Total</b>			
<b>TAX - 6.75%</b> (IL residents only)			
<b>Shipping</b> (do not include if we are delivering to your child's classroom)		<b>See below</b>	
<b>Total</b>			

Shipping Costs: \$4.00 = orders under \$30 / \$7.00 = orders \$31-\$100 / \$10.00 = orders \$100 and over

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**

Check (product will ship upon receipt)

Credit Card      CC # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_