

# MUSIC MATTERS

A Newsletter for the Families Enrolled in the Music-in-the-Box Music Masters Program  
SPRING SESSION – MAY 2005

“JUST AS THE SMALL CHILD CANNOT BE STILL BECAUSE HE IS IN NEED OF COORDINATING HIS MOVEMENTS, SO THE OLDER CHILD, WHO MAY SEEM TROUBLESOME IN HIS CURIOSITY...MUST BE GIVEN A WIDE FIELD OF CULTURE ON WHICH TO FEED”  
MARIA MONTESSORI

## **Plan Now for Summer!**

Transportation is the theme for our summer music classes. This is one of our most popular sessions—you won't want to miss it!

Summer programs being offered at:

Libertyville PD	Mon & Fri	Miss Evette
Gurnee PD	Tues & Thurs	Miss Evette
Vernon Hills PD	Wed	Miss Evette
Waukegan PD	Wed	Miss Barb
Village Green	tbd	Miss Ginger
Lake Zurich PD	Thursday	Miss Ginger

Check with your local park district or visit us online at [www.musicinthebox.com](http://www.musicinthebox.com) for times. As always, you are welcome to make –up classes.

*\*Please note there are no piano or baby classes in the summer. All age children are welcome in Family!*

## **IN MY OPINION...** By Meredith Haynes

*With summer right around the corner, I realize I'm going to really miss being with the children while I take my summer break. I'd like to thank all of you for your enthusiasm and kind words for our music program.*

*The summer months offer me an opportunity to teach for two weeks at the Suzuki Summer Institute in Colorado. Also, Ginger and I will be working hard to make our music program better and better.*

*I'd like to thank our Group Piano families for giving us the chance to extend your child's music education. The children made such wonderful progress. It has been so exciting for me to watch the Suzuki method of teaching piano. Many of you have asked me about this class so I'd like to briefly explain why I think it is worthwhile.*

*I think we all agree that music is good for children. It challenges their extremely capable brains and bodies in very specific ways. The Suzuki method merely condenses this belief into a method. Very much like a three-legged stool, the parent, the teacher and the child work together to enhance the child's experience. Group Piano will resume in the fall. I hope you'll consider it for your child.*

*Last session we talked about my son Robert as an example of Suzuki success. Another success story is Ginger's son, Joey. After being a part of the Music-in-the-Box program from age 9 months to age 3, his ability to self-correct in his first month of piano lessons astounded his teacher and created a sense of personal success for Joey. Now after 8 months in the program, he is playing eight songs successfully, and will be in his first recital on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. I encourage anyone who wants to see the success of this fabulous method to come see the recitals at 2pm and 3:30 pm Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Libertyville Covenant Church.*

*And finally, I want to mention the following article. I invited Debbie Morettini to share with us a bit of her knowledge about how children learn. I have such respect for Debbie. Her work at Kids Therapy is phenomenal. I appreciate her opinion about what we do in music class and how we can all help children to learn.*

## **USING ALL THE SENSES TO LEARN**

Three years ago, I was looking for a fun class to do with my daughter. I was fortunate to find Meredith Haynes and her staff at Music-in-the-Box. As a mom, I enjoyed the time participating in the music and activities with my daughter. As a pediatric speech/language pathologist, I loved the way the classes incorporated all the senses to facilitate speech/language, cognitive, and motor development. Pairing movement and sensory activities with learning is very beneficial for your child and it can make it fun for you too! You may find this article interesting and helpful. If you have any questions regarding your child's development, please feel free to contact me at 847-573-9486, extension 10. In addition to a free phone consult with a licensed pediatric therapist, we also offer free speech/language, fine motor, and gross motor screenings.

*We are excited to offer our newsletter online.*

*Look for our newsletter at: [www.musicinthebox.com](http://www.musicinthebox.com)*

“When I hear, I forget. When I see, I remember. When I do, I understand.” This old Chinese proverb shows the importance of the senses in the learning process. The five senses of hearing, sight, taste, and smell are the primary means we use to gain new knowledge. We rarely experience with one sense alone. Our senses work together to give us a total picture of our experiences.

People of all ages learn best when involved in meaningful experiences. Learning takes place when the mind is able to put together information from all the senses and make a connection with past learning. Using many senses to gain information helps learning to be more meaningful and useful. Children naturally learn with all the senses. From birth, children are experts at learning with all five senses active. They have not learned to select the information from any one sense as more important. They are interested in everything!

### **Children use the senses to learn.**

The function of the brain is to sort out the information gained from the senses into meaningful learning. The brain is always working, just as your lungs breathe and do not stop unless there is a major interference.

It is interesting to see how young children experience new situations as they play. Young children make sense of their world by hearing, touching seeing, tasting and smelling. When they are offered a new toy they squeeze it with their hands and rub it on their cheeks. They want to feel the toy in a variety of ways. They put the toy in their mouths and around their noses to taste and smell. They listen to sounds the toy makes. Then they notice the relationship between squeezing the toy and the sound it makes.

Children delight in learning. They continue to test out their ideas to make sure their information is correct (squeezing the toy and listening in varying time gaps or changing how hard they squeeze). Often they will offer their toys to adult caregivers to see how adults use the toys. This is how children learn more from birth to four than during any other phase of life.

### **Children learn by active involvement in experiences.**

Children do not learn best by listening or watching alone. Children are active learners who need to be involved in activities that use as many senses as possible. And language is the “glue” that helps the child make sense of all of this sensory information.

Here are some ways to help your child develop their language skills through movement and their senses:

#### **1. Teach Describing Words for Different Senses.**

What do you **see**? (pretty/ugly, dirty/clean, big/little, colors [red ball], numbers [two doggies], shapes [Everyone hold hands. Form a circle.]

What do you **hear**? (loud/soft)

How does it **smell**? (nice/stinky)

How does it **taste**? (sweet/salty/sour/spicy, good/bad)

How can you **move**? (Describing words: slow/fast.

Action words: go/stop [games like “red light, green light”], throw/catch [ball play] push/pull [wagon play] run/walk/clap/wave [motor play]

#### **2. Teach Numbers and Quantity**

Movement activities can again be helpful teaching aids.

Your child can:

- Jump [clap, knock, hop, skip] forward a specific number of times
- Throw the requested number of ball [beanbags, stuffed animals, etc.] into a large box
- Identify numbers by running and jumping onto the numbered marker [as in hopscotch].

#### **3. Teach Colors**

You can play movement games with your child to practice color recognition and labeling.

- To practice recognizing colors you can ask your child to run to the red marker or jump to the green marker.
- To practice naming colors you can perform the activity and then ask, “What color did I run to?”
- Balloon/ball play is a fun and inexpensive way to practice naming and recognizing colors. For example, your child can select the requested color to kick, throw, or bat.

#### **4. Teach Shapes**

In learning to recognize geometric shapes such as circles, triangles, and squares, your child can use movement in these activities:

- Have your child walk/run along the outlines of large shapes you have drawn in the gravel, marked on the driveway, etc.
- Have your child practice “drawing” shapes using different kinds of movement [in a dark room draw shapes on the wall with a flashlight or paint shapes with water on the sidewalk, the fence or outside wall. Encourage big painting to incorporate upper body movement.]
- Toss beanbags onto large shapes drawn on paper or through shapes cut in a large piece of cardboard.

#### **5. Teach Animals**

Learning to recognize and identify animals and imitate animal sounds can be enhanced through movement. Use these activities to practice naming animals and making animal sounds, and to identify actions associated with the animals?

- Move like familiar animals. Your child can identify what animal you are imitating by your body posture and actions. The child can then copy your movements.
- The child can pretend to be a certain animal and even pair the action with the animal sounds. For

example, by crawling, your child can pretend to “walk like a dog” and bark at the same time!

- Animal shadow plays (a bird, a bunny) are another fun activity.

## 6. Teach the Understanding of Language in Directions

Following directions can incorporate many of the concepts already discussed. This activity can become gradually more difficult as more requests are combined (one, two, and three-step directions), just stay at the level of your child’s ability.

- One-step: run [verb] to your room
- Two-step: skip [verb] to your room and get the red [color] ball
- Three-step: go [verb] outside, get two [number] balls and throw [verb] them in [preposition] the toy box.

***Most of all have fun spending time with and learning with your child!***

## WHAT’S NEW FOR MUSIC-IN-THE-BOX

- \* Music-in-the-Box would like to announce our newest contractor, Connie Crawford, who will facilitate our newest Music in Movement programs for our Bright Horizons facilities. Connie lives in Kenosha, WI with her husband and 2 children and has an early childhood education background. 1.
- \* Waukegan Park District will begin a Music Masters Program this Summer and continue to Fall in its beautiful Lilac Cottage facility at Bowen Park. We are also thrilled to announce Barrington Park District will partner with Music-in-the-Box beginning Fall 2005. Look for more details and let your Barrington and Waukegan friends know that we are coming to town! We are looking for musical moms in the Barrington and Lake Zurich area who want to teach beginning January 2006. If you are interested or know of a musical mom, please call Meredith at 847-573-1901. 2. 3. 4. 5.

## JUST SO YOU KNOW...

- When bringing a guest or non-registered sibling to class, please let the teacher know if you want the child to be involved in the class activities. Guest fees are \$5 to the teacher. We hope you will remember to recognize the teacher’s extra effort with this small amount.
- When signing up for the summer classes, please note that the published teacher’s in Libertyville are incorrect. Ms. Evette will teach all classes in the month of June and

only Friday classes in July. Ms. Ginger will not be teaching in Libertyville.

For families with special needs—you are welcome to have your child join Miss Meredith in a newly-formed Sunday School at Hawthorn Hills Community Church. *First Friends/Church Friends* was created to give parents of children with special needs time to go to a church service while their children experience friendship and learning in a safe and loving environment. Call Meredith for details at 847-573-1901.

If you or someone you know has a young child needing extra help with movement or talking, join Miss Meredith’s Saturday morning class. “*First Friends*” is offered through Kids Therapy in Barrington, 10:00 – 10:45, the cost is \$15 per class.

## FIVE WAYS TO DO MUSIC AT HOME

Here are five ways to experience our Farm Friends session throughout the week:

- 1) Challenge your child’s imaginary play, mimicking or pretending. Animal sounds come easy to children of all ages in Old Mac Donald had a farm, or through whispered sounds as you read Time For Bed. Pick up ours or any farm felts and add puppet play. Tactile materials provide another dimension to the fun increasing recognition through touch.
- 2) We love “I Can Dance” for its hidden music theory – tempo change! Children improve their ability to concentrate and anticipate through Ronno’s delightful melody and fun dance song.
- 3) What A Wonderful World has become a classroom favorite among children and parents. This beautifully illustrated book can be checked out at the library along with Louie Armstrong’s greatest hits, for a lovely way to end the day. Search for farm animals, jungle animals, or simply snuggle in a chair and listen to a legend.
- 4) Our Music Masters 3 children have enjoyed our Guess the Instrument game. This game uses our Band-in-a-Bag kit. Parent/adult plays the instrument behind a rug or towel and the child is encouraged to find his own correct instrument through sound first, and then if needed through sight.
- 5) And don’t forget the scarves as Spring rains bring Spring rainbows. All six rainbow colors are included in our rainbow scarf kit. Or if you already have scarves, include your children of all ages in exciting games of peek-a-boos and hide-the-animal song games like the ones we use in class.

## BUY IT FROM A MOM

*A way to encourage entrepreneurial moms in our Lake County Area!*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Music-in-the-Box</b> Presents <i>Music Masters For Birthdays &amp; Music &amp; Memories For Birthdays!</i> <i>At the Libertyville Sports And Rec Center</i> <i>Or your home!</i> <b>Saturday and Sunday afternoons.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call to reserve your time!</b> 847-362-5865</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Michelle Rothmeyer</i> <b>DRAGONFLY PUBLISHING</b> 866-853-1685 <i>mrrmsad@dragonflypress.net</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>book publication - newsletters - layout</i> <i>graphics – proofreading – design</i> <i>writing – editing - re-touching photographs</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alison Koehler, M.Ed., LCPC</b> Licensed Psychotherapist Specializing in Child, Adolescent and Family Therapy Libertyville &amp; Highland Park Offices 847-216-0011 <i>akoehler3@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Amy Frantz</i> <b>PILATES ON REFORMER EQUIPMENT</b> <b>Innovative Therapy Resources</b> 847-367-1402 <i>We also offer OT services for children!</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Debbie Schroeder Usborne Books <a href="http://www.UBAH.COM/Y1632">www.UBAH.COM/Y1632</a> 847-362-1139</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Deborah Menas</i> <i>Juvenile Law, Family Law and Criminal Law</i> <b>Attorney and Counselor at Law</b> 847-345-2770</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SALLY A. NORTHRUP, MA, NCC, LCPC</b> Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor &amp; <b>COLBY, CGC</b> Licensed Pet Psychotherapy Dog</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Working together to facilitate spiritual and emotional healing</i> <i>in children, adolescents, families and women.</i></p> <p>11316 Wadsworth Road, Suite 102 * Beach Park, IL 60099 Phone: 847-731-7355 – by appointment only</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOUSECLEANING BY CAROLINE</b> Excellent house cleaning at reasonable prices!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">847-599-9138</p> <p>I've enjoyed Caroline's help in my home for two years. I appreciate her ability to communicate in English. I'm glad to support a single mom. Call me for references! –Meredith Haynes at 847-573-1901</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Debbie Schroeder Usborne Books <a href="http://www.UBAH.COM/Y1632">www.UBAH.COM/Y1632</a> 847-362-1139</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Schrag Photography 847-549-8702</p> <p>Call Beth to have her photograph your child in your own home or other casual setting!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Erin Mayes</i> <b>TICKLE BUG</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">847-362-3456 <i>Beautiful Hand-knit Ponchos For Women &amp; Children</i> <i>Call today to have a Ticklebug showing in your home.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kristie Stovall</i> <b>DANCE, THEATRE &amp; ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Specializing In Children's Theme Parties</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">847-573-0372</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Triona Guidry 847-540-5938 Guidry Consulting, Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Providing quality computer services Homes and small businesses our specialty</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bring the pet you love to</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PATTY'S GROOM ROOM</b> <i>Patty works out of her home and offers excellent grooming at a reasonable cost.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">847-680-4736</p>

*Do you have a small business? I'd like to include your product or service in my newsletter. There is no fee. Let us know what you do so we can "BUY IT FROM A MOM"! (Call Meredith at 847-573-1901 to include your business or send us an email at [info@musicinthebox.com](mailto:info@musicinthebox.com))*