

CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS

The two-year Young Child curriculum is designed for children to start the Fall of their Senior Kindergarten year.

As it profoundly affects your child's musical development, *Kindermusik for the Young Child* also provides a pressure-free, developmentally appropriate transition to musically succeed before taking on more formal instruction.

Through a variety of fun, engaging activities, *Young Child* students explore the voice, rhythm, notation, musical symbols and authentic pre-keyboard, string and woodwind instruments. Students explore many facets of the musical experience—speaking, singing, moving, dancing, listening, creating and playing instruments, as well as learning about reading and writing music.



Semester One (1st Year, Sept-Jan) — Everything your child learns later in semesters 2, 3, and 4 begins with this early introduction to singing, reading, and writing music and rhythm. Through dances and games that focus on rhythmic development, we'll learn a keyboard instrument—the glockenspiel—which will be used throughout all the Young Child classes. Your At Home Materials provide the music, instruments, stickers, and activities for a home version of the same playful activities you'll hear about from class, so your child—and you!—can learn where you're most comfortable: at home.

Home Materials: Children's Folder with stickers, games bag, and Music At Home Cards, Family Songbook, Home CD of music from class, glockenspiel, and canvas bag (during first semester). *Young Child / Semester One*

Monthly Mini Themes:

- **Lessons 1-4: Music is Everywhere:** We live in a world of sound. As students listen, learn and explore the sounds that are all around us, they are developing important skills that can enhance all later learning.
- **Lessons 5-8: Ready Steady Go!** Musical beats can be fast or slow. They make our toes feel like tapping and our feet feel like marching. A steady beat is the underlying pulse of music and of life. Mixing up the steady beat into smaller and longer pieces give us music! We will listen to the rhythm of weather in the rain and wind and even a musical storm composed by Beethoven in his Pastoral Symphony.
- **Lessons 9-12: The Melody of Nature:** Birds sing to us with many voices and songs. Melody is the part of music that we want to sing. The language of melody starts with games about high and low. Join us for songs, imaginative play and instrument exploration, all exploring MELODY.
- **Lessons 13-15: Glockenspiels – Pre Keyboard Skills!** Musical learning for kids who are 4-6 is all about experiencing music through play and HANDS ON exploration. In this unit we use the pre-keyboard instrument called a Glockenspiel to organize and expand learning about steady beat, melody, and rhythm.

Semester Two (1st Year, Jan-May) — Playing simple musical patterns and songs on the featured instrument from the first session—the glockenspiel—is a central focus this semester. While learning to sing a melody, and then play the pattern on the glockenspiel, we'll delve deeper into the understanding of musical concepts such as piano and forte through orchestra-style music such as the William Tell Overture and Peter and

the Wolf. Music appreciation and understanding continues with a complete introduction to the instruments—and the families in which they're grouped—of the orchestra.

Home Materials: Children's Folder with stickers, games bag, and Music At Home Cards, Family Songbook, and Home CD of music from class.

Young Child / Semester Two

Monthly Mini Themes:

- **Lessons 16-19: Music for Special Times:** Whether it is *Happy Birthday* or *Here Comes the Bride*, music defines our celebrations. Your child will celebrate learning music as we discover where notes live on the musical staff, how both quiet and loud are exciting and how making music is a cooperative adventure.
- **Lessons 20-23: Music Moves Us:** Loud or quiet, heavy or light, happy or sad, music provides a way for your child to understand, experience and express all of this and more. Join us as we meet the great composer Beethoven compose a song about an elephant and a waterfall and learn about the family of string instruments.
- **Lessons 24-27: Does It Bounce or Does It Fly?** What draws us all to music is its many flavors or variation, in volume, intensity, smoothness, or sharpness. We are discovering how to listen carefully to identify these sounds, then let's – MOVE like this: glide, fly, slither, float, jump, bob, boing, trot. PLAY these: drums, triangles, shakers, woodblocks, chimes. DRAW pictures of what we are hearing. We have a flavor for every learner!
- **Lessons 28-30: Meet the Orchestra:** Families just like our families, instruments belong to a family too. They look, feel and sound similar. Join us as we explore the orchestra – Woodwind Family, Percussion Family, Brass Family and String Family – as depicted in the classic story by Sergi Prokofiev; *Peter and the Wolf*.

Semester Three (2nd Year, Sept-Jan) — Appalachian music is a featured musical style this semester. First, you and your child will build a two-stringed dulcimer instrument with materials that we'll provide. Then in class we'll learn to play chords and simple melodies on the instrument you built together. We'll also explore rhythm concepts through dance with an introduction to the basic steps in jazz, ballet, and tap dances. Your Home Materials include dulcimer-making materials, activity cards, and music that features recordings from Appalachia, African-America, and Native American music, as well as the Western Art music of the Nutcracker Suite.

Home Materials: Children's Folder with stickers, games bag, and Music At Home Cards, Family Songbook, Home CD of music from class, and dulcimer. *Young Child / Semester Three*

Monthly Mini Themes:

- **Lessons 31-34: The Music of Appalachia:** There is a rich history in the Mountains of Appalachia, where dulcimers strum, washboards scrub, and spoons click. We will learn to play the TWO STRING DULCIMER and explore the unique sounds, games and dances of this region.
- **Lessons 35-37: Songs of the Sea:** Feeling the salty sea air, listening to a sea shanty and composing our own sea story is how we will spend some of our time making music out on the Ocean Blue
- **Lessons 38-42: Jazz of the City and Songs of Nature:** Dixieland Jazz and Spirituals are just two forms of music that come from the African American Culture. Nature as experienced by Native Americans has inspired beautiful music as well. Join us as we celebrate these musical styles through dance, ensembles, and composition.

- **Lessons 43-45: The World of Dance:** Music is for playing and MOVING! Ballet, Tap and Jazz all have distinct sounds and dances. The Nutcracker Suite by Peter Tchaikovsky is a familiar story and shows perfectly all the ways music can move us.
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Semester Four (2nd Year, Jan-May) — In this final semester, we'll introduce the recorder instrument. As your child is introduced to basic methods of playing simple melodic patterns and songs on this wind instrument, we'll also incorporate the instruments, concepts, and songs from previous semesters. With a special emphasis on multicultural music, your child will learn to improvise and write music, as well as experience the musical styles of the Pacific Islands, Europe, and Africa; plus play special dances and children's games from around the world, including Alpine dances, Mexico, and Ecuador.

Home Materials: Children's Folder with stickers, games bag, and Music At Home Cards, Family Songbook, Home CD of music from class, and soprano recorder. *Young Child / Semester Four*

Monthly Mini Themes:

- **Lessons 46-49: Music of the Pacific Islands:** There are music makers all around the world, with their own sounds and customs. In the Pacific we explore the Momotarosan story from Japan, sing along with the Indonesian Boat Men, and do the Hula with Kapula Kane in Hawaii. Along the way, there is an introduction to the RECORDER!
- **Lessons 50-53: The Music of Europe:** From yodeling in the Swiss Alps to the poems of Mother Goose, much of our great music originated in Europe. With this beautiful backdrop we will play recorders, do the dance of the May Pole and Polka, and meet the "Grandfather of Western Music" Johan Sebastian Bach.
- **Lessons 54-57: The Music of Africa Musical:** Story telling is how children learn music in Africa. We will learn, play musical motifs and act out the classic fable of The Lion on the Path. The music of Africa includes syncopated drumming patterns, and cooperative ensembles of many kinds.
- **Lessons 58-60: The Music of Central and South America:** Who doesn't love the Mexican Hat Dance or the classic story of Don Gato? Join us as we take a whirlwind tour of this amazing part of the world! We will explore the sounds of the Brazilian Rain Forest, the Farms of Argentina and of course enjoy our own FIESTA!!