

## Parent Education: A Multi-Pronged Approach

This **process** of Parent Education begins as soon as the family enters your studio, **and it is a process.**

Following are some of the tools that Musikgarten has available for your use. We recommend that you begin each semester with a parent orientation meeting, and then choose at least 2 other things from the list below to begin with. Each year, you should evaluate and add to your efforts as necessary.

- **Parent Orientation** to establish your program as an educational program rather than entertainment; to set up the proper expectations; to explain studio policies
- **Parent Education Emails** to stay in contact with the parents mid-week, giving them short digestible bits of information validating the parents' decision to be part of your program; these are already written for you and are available on the Teacher Extranet; Microsoft Word documents that are easily edited to personalize!
- **"Did you know ..."** **statements** pointing out the developmental benefits of a preceeding activity, delivered in a casual manner during class.
- **Authors' Notes** written to specifically address how behavior, school readiness, and creativity is positively impacted by Musikgarten's *Family Music for Toddlers*; Complete with research citations, these PDF files are available on the Teacher Extranet. You can email these 4 times a year to your parents.
- **Musikgarten Planning Guide** to give parents an idea of what class to sign up for when
- **Toddler Questionnaire** asking questions of your current parents to help you figure out when to schedule a Cycle of Seasons Class.
- **Communiqués and Musikgarten Progression Article** are free, downloadable articles that explain a specific aspect of moving on from Toddlers to Cycles class or Cycles to Music Makers class.
- **Presentation to Toddler Parents** at the end of the year, if necessary, to talk to them about the value of *A Cycle of Seasons*.

### Parent Education Timeline

1. Start with a Parent Orientation.
2. Include 2 "Did you know..." statements in each class.
3. Send out Parent Education Emails each week.
4. About the middle of your semester, send out your Parent Questionnaire. Based on the info you receive, set your schedule for the following year/semester.
5. Establish your registration period for next semester's classes. Announce a "priority registration time" for current parents that will be 2 weeks prior to open registration. Choose 2 or 3 Musikgarten Communiqués that you particularly like plus a program flyer for each class you are offering and send them out, one each week before the priority registration period.