

## Parent Orientation

A carefully planned parent orientation meeting can help you retain students from one semester to another, as well as one level to another. It will set up the proper expectations before the classes ever begin. It also gives parents a frame of reference for all other parent education efforts you make throughout the semester.

Parent Orientation Meeting can be done in many ways; some teachers do one for all of the parents in their studio, while others do one level at a time. Whichever you choose, keep the following in mind:

- This is the only time you will be able to talk directly to the adults and have their full attention.
- This is the best opportunity to explain Musikgarten's approach to music literacy, from start to finish, demonstrating key points throughout the presentation.
- Engage the parents in music activities to exemplify specific points. This will make your presentation come alive, rather than being dry and academic.

**Use the following space to jot down specific activities and what they best exemplify:**

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Use this meeting also to talk about your expectation of the parents' participation in class. Remember that not all parents are comfortable in music making situations; take care to remind them that their children will be more likely to experience and value the joy of active music making if the parents join in. Our goal is to provide children with a rich music environment, just as they have a rich language environment.

Finally, discuss studio policies. Don't have so many policies that it is overwhelming. Decide what is most important to you to keep you feeling good about yourself and your program, keep the children safe, and keep the parents happy!

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