



## Family Music for Toddlers – Semester 2, Week 13 to 15

Dear Teachers,

By now I hope you are nearing the end of your first year teaching Family Music. May you take all that you have learned and apply it to your second year and beyond. In my studio, my classes are finally coming to an end. However, my job is not done. I have my next year to plan and I want to make sure these families consider including my program in their schedule next year. One way is to make sure they already know what my plans are for the fall. Because I hand out and email weekly communiqués, I have a venue to enroll these families.

Next September will be a totally different classroom experience, both for your veteran families and for you. So if you haven't already, sit down and create next season. I usually make sure I keep the same day and time for this class. I create a registration form on my computer and hand them out to each parent in the last three or four classes. I have completed my Fall schedule and have posted it on my website so they can register online. I also put up the rosters of next year's classes on the wall so that the parents can see who has registered already. Often a parent will verbally tell me they plan to register. I put their name at the bottom of the roster – on the waiting list. Their name goes on the list after they pay their registration fee. This fee is non-refundable (and this figure includes the material and two classes), and I ask for this minimum to have them lock a spot in class.

You also may want to consider adding a summer session for your families  
Check out the excellent summer programs Musikgarten offers.

### Week 13

*Let's Dance* is a wonderful chance to get the children to move freely. This can be a lovely precursor to a free dance like the Tchaikovsky that follows. You can easily add duple rhythm echoes between verses.

*The Merry-Go-round* - Before you begin, hand out the hoops and let them explore. Verbalize what they are doing. Then direct their attention to your model. Chant, "up and down, up and down" over and over until most of hoops are moving along with you. Then start the verse, dancing with hoop. At the refrain the children will be ready to move up and down with you.

*Calliope* – Most of the children in my area have never seen a merry-go-round. You can always bring a picture in of the Calliope. I do not bring in a picture; rather, I slowly describe the machine with its many fine horses of different colors. I ask the children to choose a horse of their favorite color. Then we listen to the music of the merry-go-round.

*See, Can't you Jump for Joy* - To begin we sit on the floor and I show jumping with my fingers as I chant, "Jump for Joy". Have you noticed that often I will often "rehearse" a movement that will be coming up



in the following piece? Then I start the piece as my hands are on the ground and sing the first line "Children Come now" and then move my fingers in a jumpy way for the next line. We then repeat this standing and waiting and then jumping at the appropriate times. This is another impulse control game (and I tend to need a break from jumping).

Hey, that's it! Music has been a part of these children's lives, not only in your classroom but at home as well. This is a good thing. You have been part of adding a wonderful musical dimension to these families lives, and I thank you for your time and effort to learn this curriculum. May you have many years of teaching that will continue to welcome children into your classroom and into your own musical life.

Sincerely,

Ellen Johansen

P.S. If you found these enews helpful, please let Jeff Spickard, President of Musikgarten, know. He can be reached at [jspickard@musikgarten.org](mailto:jspickard@musikgarten.org)