

PARENT EDUCATION EMAILS FOR FAMILY MUSIC FOR TODDLERS

Following is a document containing 14 sections, one for each of the types of activities found in Family Music for Toddlers, plus one on behavior. These were written with the following plan in mind:

You can email your toddlers' parents on a weekly basis, sending them one section each week. You can do this either by copying and pasting the desired section directly into the body of your email or you can copy and paste it into a Microsoft Word document and send it as an attachment. By covering just one topic per week, you will be able to stay in touch with your parents on a regular basis, and you will not be overwhelming them with too much information at once.

Each section was written in such a way that it is almost completely ready to be copied and sent; all you have to do is fill in some examples of repertoire from the unit you are teaching. You will notice that in the attachment, those sentences that require editing are in bold so they are easily seen.

The final section deals with behavior, and you may want to send this at the beginning of the semester, or you may choose not to send this one at all. This was written reflecting the policies in place in my studio, and they might not reflect your thinking. Feel free to edit as you wish, with not only this section, but the whole document.

Greeting and Name Songs

Every child loves to hear his or her name. We begin each week with the same song, establishing a ritual that the children love. **Our greeting song this semester is XXX.** The greeting song signifies the time for all of the before-class chatter to stop and the structure of the class to begin – a class which everyone in the room is looking forward to. Including children's names in a greeting song each week is particularly appealing as it affirms each child as an individual but also as an integral member of the group. Children also enjoy being in the "spotlight" for the time it takes to sing each verse, and they delight as the rest of the children and their parents wave, clap, or point to them! They learn very early on that each child will be featured within the greeting song, and they wait patiently until their turn comes around. What a pleasant way to teach patience!

Bouncing Activities

Bouncing activities are a favorite for most children, whether they are bouncing on your outstretched legs or sitting next to you, copying what you are doing! **XXX are the favorite bouncing activities included in this semester.** These activities, particularly if you are sitting together, give your child a full-bodied sensation of the steady beat of the music, which is the basis for all rhythmic understanding. Additionally, the movement of bouncing up and down is

stimulating to the *vestibular function of the ear*, which is responsible for regulating your child's body position, movement, awareness in space, and sense of balance.

Many of the bouncing activities that we enjoy in class allow time for you to lift your child's arms or whole body, if you are able, high into the air, or rolling backwards with your child, providing both contrast and enjoyment. The children come to anticipate these moments and they delight in both the anticipation and the moment, itself!

This is just a sample of the entire document that is available for our licensed teachers. A similar document exists for each of our curricula, Family Music for Babies through Music Makers: At Home in the World. If you are a licensed teacher, log in to the Teacher Extranet and click on Teacher Resources. These emails can be found under Parent Tools, Parent Education Emails.