

# Musikgarten

Music and Movement for Early Childhood

What is Musikgarten?



Musikgarten is a comprehensive, sequential plan of musical development for children ages newborn to age 9. Each level of Musikgarten stands on its own and matches and supports the developmental needs of children.

Musikgarten puts children on a pathway to music literacy. To foster music literacy, Musikgarten offers a comprehensive early childhood program that spans the first nine years of a child's musical development. Children love the progression from semester to semester, as patterns and songs are repeated and built upon, addressing students' needs at each level.

There is no equal to this curriculum; this is joyful musical play with a *purpose!*

## Why Music and Movement are Vital for Children:

Peanut butter and jelly, socks and shoes, bats and balls, hide and seek, music and children — are all elements of childhood. Children are naturally interested in music, and music is naturally good for children. Why is music so attractive to children and why is music so well suited to children?

- **Music is a language**, and children are oriented toward learning language.
- **Music evokes movement**, and children delight in and require movement for their development and growth.
- **Music engages the brain** while stimulating neural pathways associated with such higher forms of intelligence as abstract thinking, empathy, and mathematics.
- Music's melodic and rhythmic patterns provide **exercise for the brain** and help develop **memory**. Who among us learned the ABC's without the ABC song?
- **Music is an aural art and young children are aural learners**. Since ears are fully mature before birth, infants begin learning from the sounds of their environment before birth.
- Music is perfectly designed for training children's **listening skills**. Good listening skills and school achievement go hand in hand.
- Developmentally appropriate music activities involve the whole child: the child's desire for language, the body's urge to move, the brain's attention to patterns, the ear's lead in initiating communication, the voice's response to sounds, as well as the eye-hand coordination associated with playing musical instruments.
- **Music is a creative experience** which involves expression of feelings. Children often do not have the words to express themselves and need positive ways to release their emotions.
- **Music transmits culture** and is an avenue by which beloved songs, rhymes, and dances can be passed down from one generation to another.
- **Music is a social activity** which involves family and community participation. Children love to sing and dance at home, school, and at church.

Visit [www.musikgarten.org](http://www.musikgarten.org) for more information!

[www.amylrucker.com](http://www.amylrucker.com)