



MUSIC MATTERS

A Newsletter for the Families Enrolled in the Music-in-the-Box Music Masters Program
Meredith Haynes and Ginger Acopiado, Owners
LATE FALL 2006 EDITION

"Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius." Wolfgang Mozart

**Don't Forget To Register For Winter.
It's a 10 Year Celebration you won't want to miss!**

NEW LOCATIONS FOR FALL

IN OUR OPINION...

BY
Meredith Haynes & Ginger Acopiado

Music-in-the-Box is getting ready for a ten-year-old birthday party—Ours!

Birthdays offer moments of celebration and reminiscence. Our favorite memories involve children. We feel privileged beyond words to have the privilege of seeing...

...a first step...a first word...a first song...
a first piano, violin and flute recital...the happy tears of a mom who's special-needs child loves music class...the bright eyes of a child who suddenly understands harmony, dynamics, tempo, rhythm...

Music truly matters. We've seen it first hand in children's faces for the past ten years. And we look forward to recognizing the importance of music in the eyes of all the children we have yet to know!

If you have any comments on our programs, please contact us at info@musicinthebox.com. We'd love to hear from you! And you might even see it on our website!

THE CAT CAME BACK IS NOW IN SESSION,

So don't forget to STOP and wag your tail to the bluesy sounds of the Stray Cats, the folksy melodies of Laurie Berkner and the tactile treasure of the touchable Usbourne book series!

DEVELOPMENTAL READINESS A Revisit of What the Experts Are Saying By Ginger Acopiado

Consider The Cat Came Back Set for home! Set now includes Mr. Johnson's Yellow Cat (pictured smaller than actual size - safe for baby with sewn eyes!)



"Why does my 2 year-old jump on her books?" "Why does my child line everything up in a single file line?"
With all the research, it is surprising that many parents do not know there are certain developmental milestones that must be mastered for humans to move developmentally from stage to stage. What can we as parent do, especially when we are trying so hard to increase our child's potential? How do you know when to stimulate which developmental phase? Research shows that the answer is, listen to (or watch) your child. They all go through all phases, but in very different orders.

And sometimes stages will overlap and, though rarely, intertwine and they will all be reached to varying degrees.

Toddlers who are physical and aggressive may not be in the development phase for fine motor or organizational learning. Rather, they may be in their gross motor development phase. Requiring long stretches of passive play may not only be frustrating to a child in this stage, but may stilt

development as well. Climbing, running and jumping are all key to developing coordination and balance. Have stimulating materials such as blocks or crayons, books, cars and dolls available, but don't get too upset when they throw them around or step and climb on them. Just make sure there are plenty of safe things to experiment with or jump onto when these mobile miniatures erupt.

The same is true of the child who appears "cerebral" or passive. Although they appear "smarter" than their peers of the same age, the reality is they are in their language development or organizational learning phase first. They may be early talkers or good with small detail manipulation. Requiring ball throwing, climbing and sliding may simply create a fearful child who is afraid the world is unsafe. The reality is they are not developmentally ready to make use of or expand on their physical skills. Instead encourage books, crayons, cars, blocks and other detail oriented items to stimulate this fine motor development, but also make available toys that may appeal to their curiosity for a more interactive and physical play later. Give the passive child a ball, but don't be upset when they carry it around or tell you what color it is instead of throwing it.

All children need stimulation, without expectation, in all areas. According to experts, take a front seat in parenting by taking a back seat in teaching during the toddler years. You help your child more when you let them explore their world in their own time by providing multiple sensory experiences, without creating frustration (yours or theirs). Talk to your active child about colors and shapes while you are jumping onto colored shaped felt mats, it won't speed up the development, but it will ensure it is being stimulated when the phase turns. Roll the orange ball to your passive child instead of throwing it at them and praise their "catch".

And watch out! Just when you've labeled your child the "quiet one", he'll turn on his gross motor development and climb your furniture and seeming to have "forgotten" those ever impressive ABC's. Research shows that all children go through all stages just in different orders² and if you stimulate all phases, and resist "taming" or "coaxing" an unwilling toddler, you will see a glorious well-rounded

child who is self-motivated, willing and ready to try just about anything that appears interesting.

A NOTE ABOUT THE NEWEST

RESEARCH: No matter the propensities of the child, music is the great equalizer! According to new studies reported in 2006 by the Washington Post, there is a direct correlation between playing an instrument and enhanced memory skills and brain organization - skills necessary for math and science. The following is an excerpt from that article:

"The researchers studied the effects of the popular Suzuki method because different Suzuki instructors all follow the same steps and because students are not selected on the basis of innate musical ability or mental skills.

'It is very interesting that the children taking music lessons improved more over the year on general memory skills that are correlated with nonmusical abilities such as literacy, verbal memory, Visio-spatial processing, mathematics and IQ than did the children not taking lessons,' said Laurel J. Trainor, the lead researcher of the study at McMaster University in Canada. The study is being published in the journal *Brain*."

At Music-in-the-Box, we have believed this for years! We watch with joy as the children in our program soar with their accomplishments, and then we revel in the early successes of those children who take our program to the next level and continue their early music education with instrument instruction. We hope you will join us in our newest offering: Music Masters 4, Group Instrument Instruction when your child is ready!

¹ The Endangered Child, *Jane Healy*

² What to Expect the Toddler Years, *Arlene Eisenberg, Sandee E. Hathaway, Heidi E. Murkoff*

³ The Washington Post - Musical Training Benefits Kids' Brains, *September 2006*

A NOTE ABOUT OUR TEACHERS

Music-in-the-Box is proud of teachers Donna Weinstock and Sara Zawila for their achievement in the International Sweet Adeline's Choral Competition in October. Their Barbershop Choir - the Melodeers were runner up, missing the top spot by only 18 points! Considered to be the "Olympics" of women's vocal

music, The Sweet Adeline's competition celebrates the vocal talents of women committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance. We are blessed to have such talent in our growing family.

Sandy Berklan - Lake Zurich PD and Vernon Hills PD
Tamara Berzin - Evenings at Gurnee PD and Waukegan PD
Barb Boes - Mundelein PD, Hawthorn Hills, Bright Hor/Motorola
Michele MacLennan - Lindenhurst PD, Gurnee PD & The Chapel
Sara Zawila - Barrington PD, Lake Zurich PD, & Libertyville PD
Donna Weinstock - Bright Hor/Amhurst and CDW, Gurnee PD
Lisa Shaw - Group Violin at Libertyville PD
Mee Ying Tan - Group Piano at Libertyville PD

WHAT'S NEW FOR MUSIC-IN-THE-BOX

THE CATALOG IS COMING!

We are frantically working to introduce our online and classroom catalog by January 2007 to make it easier for you to do music at home - just in time for our 10 Year Celebration!

MUSIC MASTER 3 IS GROWING!

Barrington, Vernon Hills and Lake Zurich Park Districts have graduated to Music Masters 3! Ms. Sara, Ms. Sandy and Ms. Ginger are all providing musical games geared toward significantly enhancing the successes of your child's early instrument instruction. Even if you aren't going on to instrument instruction, this is a great way to challenge young minds that are so ready for something new.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE SYMPHONY!

Believe it or not, there is probably is a symphony that caters to the whole family in your area. It is definitely to your benefit to begin exposing children to classical music at an early age so that it becomes a part of the musical world.

Rarely are children given the opportunity to experience excellent symphonic music in person. And many children's concerts include an intermission where touching the instruments and asking questions is part of the program. It's truly an experience you won't want to miss!

HELP STILL WANTED

Are you a closet web designer waiting to break out into the world of entrepreneurial freedom? We are looking for someone to get our catalog online and would love to see some of your work (even if it is your own family web page).

You must be able to work with an Excel database for uploading product data.

Contact Ginger at Music-in-the-Box to discuss!

847-362-5865

QUOTABLE KIDS

From time to time we run across the most adorable comments in our classrooms. As far back as two years ago, we still remember a young lady from Libertyville, Illinois who would hear the old good-bye song and lament "No lovely time, no lovely time mommy" – a clear indicator class went well!

Recently we had the pleasure of hearing from a mom in our CDW Bright Horizons facility in Vernon Hills, Illinois. This mom called to let us know she would be signing up for the remainder of the year, as her daughter, as she so eloquently said, thought our Ms. Donna was the second coming!

Do you have a favorite music story to share with other moms? We'd love to quote your little darling in our 10 Year Anniversary kick-off newsletter.

Send us an email at info@musicinthebox.com and we'll put your precious moment in print.

Do you have an adorable baby under the age of 1? We are looking for babies to create our next book, a photographic portrayal of the many ways to see color in our world – the color of feelings, weather, even each other – all beautifully portrayed through the photos of children. Call Ginger at 847-362-5865 if you are interested or need more information. Crying and laughing babies are both welcome!

BUY IT FROM A MOM

A way to encourage entrepreneurial moms who attend our classes!

<p>Music-in-the-Box Presents <i>Music Masters For Birthdays & Music & Memories For Birthdays!</i> <i>At the Libertyville Sports And Rec Center</i> <i>Or your home!</i> Saturday and Sunday afternoons.</p> <p>Call to reserve your time! 847-362-5865</p>	<p><i>MEE YING TAN</i></p> <p><i>Suzuki & Traditional Piano Lessons</i></p> <p>847-816-0643</p> <p><i>Private and Group Lessons Available.</i></p>
<p><i>Barb Boes</i> PAMPERED CHEF 847-327-9537 Specializing in home parties, food & fun!</p>	<p><i>Dagny Power</i> Traveling Vineyard 847-573-0155 Specializing in home wine tasting!</p>
<p>Debbie Schroeder Usborne Books www.UBAH.COM/Y1632 847-362-1139</p>	<p>Beth Schrag Photography 847-549-8702 bethschrag@hotmail.com Capturing life in motion</p> <p>Call Beth to your child photographed in your own home or other casual setting!</p>
<p><i>MEE YING TAN</i></p> <p>Suzuki & Traditional Piano Lessons</p> <p>847-816-0643</p> <p><i>Private and Group Lessons Available.</i></p>	<p>LISA SHAW</p> <p><i>Certified Suzuki Violin Instructor</i></p> <p>847-816-8068 Private and Group Lessons Available</p>
<p>Alison Koehler, M.Ed., LCPC Licensed Psychotherapist Specializing in Child, Adolescent and Family Therapy 847-216-0011 akoehler3@yahoo.com</p>	<p><i>Jeanne Engelkemeir</i> <i>Kelly's Kids</i> <i>The largest at-home kids clothing company specializing in coordinated clothing for the entire family.</i> 847-367-4012 www.kellyskids.com</p>
<p>Triona Guidry 847-540-5938 Guidry Consulting, Inc.</p> <p>Providing quality computer services Homes and small businesses our specialty</p>	<p><i>Kristie Stovall</i> DANCE, THEATRE & ACTIVITIES Specializing In Children's Theme Parties</p> <p>847-573-0372</p>

Are you an entrepreneurial mom? We'd like to include your product or service in our newsletter. There is no fee. Let us know what you do so we can "BUY IT FROM A MOM"! (Call us at 847-573-1901 to include your business or send us an email at info@musicinthebox.com)

A NOTE FROM YOUR TEACHER

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