

## WHAT IF MY CHILD DIDN'T SEEM TO ENJOY THE FIRST CLASS?

Children enjoy what is familiar to them. Being in a room full of strangers, doing songs they have never heard before isn't a lot of fun for some children. If you listen to the CD at home and do the activities with your child, you will see a big change. Children love repetition. The more often you sing the songs and do the activities at home, the more your child will enjoy class, and the more he or she will learn!

After you come to class for 3 or 4 weeks your child will be comfortable with the teacher, room, and general environment of class. As teachers, we look forward to week 4 of the session, when the class really "gels" and everyone, including the children who weren't comfortable at first, is having a great time.

## MY CHILD RAN AROUND THE ROOM FOR MOST OF CLASS! WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Active children who are not familiar with the songs will likely run for most of the first class. The more you listen to the songs and do the activities at home, the more likely it is that your child will join the circle during class. I have seen exasperated parents become very happy as they see their child become more and more focused week by week.

Even so, some parents who really do their homework (actively engage in music making with their child during the week) still find that their child may stay outside the circle a great deal of the time during class. We have found that most of the time, those active children are engaging themselves with the music in their own way and in their own space during class. They're happy to be in class, they are interacting with the music during class, and they enjoy doing the songs outside of class. While we may have to work harder as adults to appreciate it, this type of child is growing musically just as much as the child who stays in the parents lap throughout class.

## MY CHILD IS TOO YOUNG TO DO THE ACTIVITIES. SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL LATER TO TAKE CLASS?

Every time you sing and dance with your baby, he or she is learning. Our class is not about what your child does, but instead about how we help your child to develop musically. Research suggests that the youngest children in the room are benefiting even more from class

than the older children. During stand up songs and the free dance, pick your child up so he or she can feel the beat from your body.

During tonal and rhythm patterns, notice how focused your child is when listening to the patterns. When your child is babbling at home, try doing patterns. I've seen 10 and 12 month olds repeat patterns using this technique. If you're not sure how best to do a song with your baby, please ask your teacher.

#### MY CHILD IS THE OLDEST IN HIS CLASS. IS HE TOO OLD?

I've seen 4, 5, and even 6 year olds love taking Music Pups. From an adult-learning point of view, we know that we learn more when we aren't the oldest or smartest in the class. But please keep in mind that a three or four-year-old doesn't learn the same way an adult does.

Being the oldest or smartest in a class like ours does not limit the amount that child can benefit from our program.

Research shows that the musical development of 3, 4, and 5 year old children is enhanced by singing, dancing and creating music. Exactly what we do in Music Pups!

Having said that, it is true that some children do not feel comfortable in a class with younger children. My check to see if a child is too old for class is to ask the parent the following three questions: 1) Does your child look forward to going to class? 2) Does your child enjoy being in class? 3) Does your child enjoy singing and doing our activities at home? If the answer to all three questions is yes, then I believe the child is not too old for our program.

**DON'T FORGET THAT YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S MOST IMPORTANT TEACHER!** Use our songs and activities to interact musically with your child throughout the week and you will see your child's musical skills blossom.