



# FAMILY MUSIC

A program of Foundation Music School

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## FAMILY MUSIC 1

For infants through  
18 months old

## FAMILY MUSIC 2

For children 15 months to 3 ½  
years old

## FAMILY MUSIC 3

For children 3- 5 years old

### INSTRUCTORS:

Nicole Wilshusen, MM, MT-BC

Karmen Mitchell, MM, MT-BC

Dani Schlueter, MM, MT-BC

Kara Shobe, MM, MT-BC

### PURPOSE OF FAMILY MUSIC:

- To help build a strong musical foundation for children, in a developmentally appropriate way.
- To offer parents an opportunity to bond musically with their child, through a sensory rich environment that is engaging and stimulating to the child.
- To help develop and build parents' repertoire of songs and rhymes that can be used at home.
- To provide a music class that is open to all families, including families with children with special needs and families with limited resources for musical opportunities.

### PARENT TIPS & SUGGESTIONS:

- **Arrival:** Please arrive at your class 5-10 minutes early to allow your child time to adjust to their new environment and to feel settled. Books are provided before class for you and your child to read.
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is recommended to allow your child an optimal musical experience. Through regular attendance and class repetitions, children build expectations and excitement towards music activities.
- **Snacks & Toys:** During music, please keep individual bottles, toys and snacks out of the class area, since children are sometimes irretrievably distracted by the fact that food or toys are present, but not available to them.
- **Respect of the room and others:** Once we moved to our new location, we declared the Family Music room to be a **SOCK ZONE**. We made this decision for safety and sanitary reasons because all the children in our Family Music classes spend time on the floor. Please plan on bringing/wearing socks in the Family Music room at all times - you, your child(ren) and any visitors you bring. *We are asking for socks and not just bare feet.* We will provide shoe covers if you forget your socks.

We ask that you please help your child to respect others in class, the instruments and our space. Your child is not required to sit and follow directions for the entirety of the class, however, we do ask that children do not pull on curtains or curtain rods, hit the walls with the instruments, throw instruments, etc. Please help us to keep your child safe, as well as other children in the room safe!

- **Instruments:** Regular sanitization of instruments by your instructor is done to help prevent the spread of germs. However, families with children under 16 mos. are *strongly* encouraged to purchase and bring their own Musikgarten instruments to class, since instruments will be put in the mouth at this age. (*Instrument kits are available for purchase from your instructor for \$20*). Caution: Jingle bells can cut gums if put in your child's mouth. Bells will not be used in Family Music I for this reason.
- **Sick Policy:** PLEASE show consideration for other children and the teacher. **Please do not send a child to class who will obviously spread illness to others...**fever, cough, runny nose or eyes...or who feels miserable. Not sure when to keep your child home? Check out our website for a more extensive list.
- **Community:** Family Music can be a wonderful setting to develop 'community' with other parents and children. Please enjoy the time provided before and after class for this special opportunity. During class we count on your voices to sing and support. Please limit conversations with other adults during class, particularly when we are singing.

## SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

- Instrument Kits: Instrument kits may be purchased the first week of your Family Music class. Instrument kits include: 2 scarves, 2 pairs of rhythm sticks and 2 shakers for \$20.
- Family Music Packets: CD packets, including many of the songs and activities used in your Family Music class, may be ordered the first week of class. These CD's are highly recommended to help extend activities done in class into at-home musical play.
  - Family Music 1: Packet includes CD and parent activity booklet.
  - Family Music 2: Packet includes CD and parent activity booklet.
  - Family Music 3: Packet includes 2 CDs, parent activity booklet and 12 animal cards.

*\*\*Instrument kits and Family Music Packets may not be available for purchase after the first week of class.\*\**

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- *How should I interact with my child in music class?* During Family Music classes, the instructor will help to guide you in ways to interact musically with your child. In this way, the instructor is the facilitator and the parent becomes the teacher. The emphasis of Family Music is on the experience of music making and sharing between parent and child. Most importantly, please participate in class activities: you are very important role model for your child. Your participation in singing, moving and listening cues your child that it is safe, enjoyable and important. "Musical competence" is not important, it's enthusiasm that sustains the energy and focus of the class.
- *What if my child can't sit still?* Young children are learning to move and moving to learn! Every class has a balance of sitting, moving and playing instruments, which meets the needs of most children. Some children have just learned to walk and they do it almost constantly! Other children may quietly watch, observing but not participating. There may be times when your child may decide to "explore outside the circle." Your child is welcome to stand and observe or safely move in the classroom, however, for the safety of your child and other children in class, we ask that children do not run in the classroom.
- *What if my child is not engaging in class activities?* All children are learning if they are in the room. Children are particularly motivated if their parent is participating in a pleasant, relaxed manner, however forcing a child to participate may negatively color his/her perception of music and music class. On the other

hand, if a child is highly distressed, it is best for the child and parent to step into another room until the child is ready to return. We do our best to support the needs of both individual children and the group and we encourage adults to also support one another, rather than competing or comparing. At this age, musical experience needs to be a process rather than a performance.

- *How soon can I tell if my child has musical potential?* Research shows that all children have musical potential and that it is highest in very young children! Aptitude in rhythm and melody will commonly develop at different rates, but both can be significantly developed through musical pattern activities and through joyful singing, movement and listening to high quality music in early childhood. Frequent musical interaction between parent and child at home is the key to developing a child's potential.
- *These classes are fun, but when should my child begin seriously studying music, such as taking violin or piano lessons?* We truly believe that children in Family Music are developing a strong musical foundation in the most developmentally appropriate way. Young children are more interested in singing, dancing and trying out instruments than in being still for 30 minutes while practicing each day. It is exciting to see the development of musical skills and literacy in this playful musical environment. Children who participate in early childhood music classes are usually far ahead when they do begin to study an instrument, commonly around the age of five or six. When they are ready to start playing an instrument, our Music Makers Instrument Programs are a wonderful approach to true music literacy. Feel free to talk to us about more information.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- **Registration:** We can only hold your space in Family Music classes that you have paid for. Registration is open on a semester basis. Please pay in advance for all the 8-week sessions within a semester that you want to attend. We cannot guarantee a space in a Family Music class that you have not paid for in advance. Registration fills up fast and is on a first come first serve basis.
- **Visitors:** Please let us know if you would like to invite a family member or friend to your Family Music class. Guests are welcome, however too many visitors at one time can be overwhelming for some children.
- **Refunds:** Refunds are not available for individual missed classes. If you need to cancel registration and receive a refund, you must do so by one week before the start of your class.
- **Scholarships:** Full and partial scholarships are available for all Family Music classes based on financial need. Please inquire for more information.
- **Cancellations:** Family Music classes with insufficient registration will be canceled at least 2 days before the scheduled start date and class fee will be refunded.
- **Cell phones:** Please respect this special time with your child and leave your cell phone behind, except under unusual circumstances.
- **Interns:** Occasionally, a music therapy intern or graduate student will be assisting with Family Music classes. Interns and graduate students will be supervised by Foundation Music School instructors and may lead all or part of Family Music classes.
- **Snow Days:** Foundation Music School observes the same snow day policy as the Poudre School District. If Poudre School District classes are cancelled, Foundation Music School will also cancel all classes and lessons. Make-up classes will be scheduled at the discretion of Foundation Music School. Refunds will not be offered for classes rescheduled due to snow days.
- **Teacher Illness:** Occasionally classes need to be rescheduled due to teacher illness. Every effort will be made to find substitutes if a teacher is ill, however sometimes rescheduling is unavoidable and necessary. Make-up classes will be scheduled at the discretion of Foundation Music Schools. Refunds will not be offered for classes rescheduled due to teacher illness.