



"Enriching children's lives through music,
movement and song"

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Cognitive Development and Developmental Music

The Music With Margie Preschool Program is a music and movement curriculum designed to support and reinforce regular preschool programming and its developmental goals. I teach thematically, and bring a weekly bag of props, instruments, and tricks, as well as my guitar, to play, teach, and enlighten.

Why Music?

1. Children enjoy it. They are willing to involve themselves actively, and that involvement is an important component of the learning process.
2. Music is non-judgmental. Children can express themselves and explore their imaginations in a setting where things need not be right or wrong.
3. As part of a total educational program, music complements classroom activities by focusing on skills that are critical in these areas, i.e., listening skills, both fine and gross motor skills, body and spatial awareness, scientific thinking such as problem solving, sequencing, and math skills.
4. Language and literacy skyrocket. Music offers concrete experiences that are embedded in language, and language is the key to intellectual growth.
5. Finally, children of all backgrounds and personalities experience enhanced self-esteem.

Goals and Objectives

Music skills develop in the course of activities, but they are not the primary focus. There are critical skills learned as this program builds upon itself throughout the academic year. I was trained at Perkins School for the Blind by (now retired) mentor and music therapist, Judith E. Bevans, MT-BC. In her words, *"Students are seldom aware of skills they are gaining in music sessions because they focus on the music itself. In this way, the teacher 'slips' instruction by them in a setting that is usually relaxed and enjoyable. Humor is an essential ingredient because it enhances attention and deflects difficult situations."*

The following are just some of the goals attained through music:

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| • Basic communication and language development | -Sound localization |
| • Listening skills | -Social skills |
| • Attention to task | -Self-help skills |
| • Eye/Hand coordination | -Relief of tension |
| • Following directions | -Self-expression and self-esteem |
| • Auditory processing | Comprehensive movement program teaches: |
| • Body Awareness and left/right orientation | -Basic movements (stomping, shaking, swinging) |
| • Gross and fine motor skills | -Locomotor patterns (skipping, galloping, jumping) |
| • Music skills: sense of pitch, rhythm, tempo, dynamics | -Proper use of breath (sing & move at same time) |
| • Long and short term memory | -Correct posture |
| • Sequencing | -Exploration of space & awareness of direction |
| • Spatial awareness | -Social dancing and relaxation |