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Please help us wish a very Happy birthday to Kidstunes instructor **Lou Anne Hicks** on 3/30.



**Happy St. Patrick's
Day on March 17!**

Musical Children



Lara's Letter



March 2018

February was quite a busy month as we wrapped up our extensive unit on Musical Expression. Let's see if you or your children remember any of these terms (and yes, they are in *Italian!*): *forte* (loud), *piano* (soft), *crescendo* (getting louder), *diminuendo* (getting softer), *allegro* (fast), *largo* (slow), *legato* (smooth), and *staccato* (choppy). These are the main tools composers use to make each and every piece of music unique!



In March we will be exploring **Tone Color** or **Timbre**, which describes the special quality of sound of each voice, natural sound, and instrument, as well as

what makes instruments different – their size, what they are made of, how they are played, etc. We'll explore the Science of Sound— **how** sound is made—through songs, games, and discovery activities, because Tone Color is truly in *everything* around us! A favorite activity of students and teachers alike during this unit includes making their very own instruments! Look for these coming home and remember to ask your child about their creation (name?, family it's from?, sound it makes?, etc.). Then, share their music! Play a favorite tune, or better yet make up your own and add other sound sources too. Don't forget to dance as you play! Sing along! Enjoy!

Kidstunes Expands West!

GOOD NEWS! With our new instructor, Emma Burnham on board, Kidstunes has begun its expansion to Western North Carolina. Emma will begin teaching in her home town of Hickory along with the Conover area. We are excited about the response we've received and are honored to begin incorporating Early Childhood Music and Movement as an enrichment program in that area. In 2017 Kidstunes classes were re-introduced in the Kernersville area and added in Winston-Salem when Tanya Day joined the team.

DID YOU KNOW that Kidstunes currently serves over 40 child care centers from Clayton to Winston-Salem and

everywhere in-between? That's thousands of children every week whose lives are being enriched by music!

We would like to welcome the following Hickory area schools to the Kidstunes family: ***The Sandbox, LeGrande Learning Center, Northlakes Academy and Rainbow Child Care Center!***

DIRECTORS can earn their center **FREE CLASSES** by referring a new center to Kidstunes.

Watch Us GrOw!!



Easter Egg Maracas

You will need:

Plastic eggs, tape (white or decorated), spoons, filler material (popcorn kernels, rice, beans, etc).

1. Fill eggs
2. Tape spoons to sides of egg
3. Tape ends of spoons together
4. Decorate as Desired
5. Have fun!



Don't forget
to set your
clocks ahead
one hour on
March 11!

March - Tone Color & Making Instruments

Tone color or **Timbre** is often a difficult concept for young children to grasp, however, Kidstunes uses creativity to familiarize them with it. Tone Color is “*the special quality of sound in voices, instruments, and natural sounds.*” In simpler terms, it describes the phenomena that makes every sound unique from others. It is important for young music students to understand that each voice, each instrument, and each sound is unlike ANY other - similar to one’s fingerprints. We first explore sounds that are around us every day & how they’re different, yet recognizable (clocks, running water, footsteps, Mommy or Daddy’s voice, different animals, etc.) This then develops into focusing on the special sound of each child’s own voice and how inflection may affect the way we sound (which

incorporates concepts from previous units on pitch, dynamics, and musical expression). Then, we explore how the instruments we hear or play in class also have their own special sound and why—usually due to how and what they are made of, as well as how they are played.

As a follow up to discovering what makes each of our classroom instruments unique, we will make our very own instruments from everyday materials!

This activity furthers understanding of how sound is produced, enhances problem solving **and creative thinking skills, and integrates arts & crafts!**

Musical Moments

Timbre - The distinctive quality or tone of a sound.

Activities you can try at home or in your classrooms:

- Listen to sounds around you.
- Using rhythm instruments - organize instruments into 3 groups
 - Wood - woodblock, guiro, sticks, etc.
 - Metal - triangle, cowbell, tambourine, cymbals, etc.
 - Skins - drums (some tambourines have both skin and metal)
- Don't have any instruments at home? Explore sounds you can make with household items of differing materials - drum on pots and pans/lids (metals) or wooden bowls; rub pieces of sand paper together, paper plates, put different materials in cans or plastic eggs and shake!
- Create sound effects for stories with instruments or your voices
- Listen for high, middle, low, loud, soft, long, short...
- Use additional adjectives for descriptions - shrill, thump, rumble, crash, clunk, etc.
- Create your own instruments.
- Listen to musical instruments and identify which instrument family they belong to.
- Listen to different timbres in voices - have students/friends/family hide and ask students to identify the voice they hear; compare voices of babies, daddies, mommies, and even animals!
- Look inside a piano
- Use bells to discuss vibration by letting them ring and then stopping the vibration with the mallet (or resting the mallet on the tone bar in order to not allow vibration).
- Create a homemade string instrument with rubber bands
- Play combs with wax paper to feel vibration