



Tips for Caregivers

Get the most out of your Kidstunes music classes by involving your classroom teachers and incorporating the music concepts throughout the week

Preparing for Music Class

- Help us keep a musical focus during our time with your students. If possible, remind the children to clean up before our arrival and create a clear open space for free movement. During the lesson, please limit distractions &/or other activities that do not pertain to the music class as much as possible. If your energies are directed towards music, theirs will be too.

During Music Class

- Please JOIN US in the activities! You do not have to be a "musician" to sing, dance, and play with us. In fact, you are setting a great example for the children by participating, no matter what your level of musical ability. Since you are their primary caregiver, they are accustomed to following your lead ... the more you sing, dance, listen, and play along with us, the more your students will follow suit!
- We appreciate all of your help, especially with classroom and behavior management issues that may arise. However, we ask that you allow our Kidstunes Instructors to "be the teacher" during class. It is important for our students to know who to listen to. Directions given from more than one source can be confusing. Plus, we want you to take a break from teaching - just ENJOY being a child again with your students
- Children will respond in many different ways during class, ranging from virtually none at all to almost over-participation. All levels are fine! Especially with younger students, what appears to be a lack of participation by some children may in fact be the best response for their learning stage: simply watching, listening, and absorbing the music and movement all around them. We hope to provide a rich musical environment for all during this stage of preparatory audiation - the period in which they are learning how to comprehend music, but may not yet be capable of giving a musical response in return.
- On the other hand, our class is FULL of activity. We're singing, dancing, playing instruments, acting out stories... Admittedly, our lessons can get a tad rowdy at times, but a little extra rambunctiousness is okay! Although this may not be your normal routine, we ask you to allow us some latitude (regarding physical activity or volume

level) during our time there. In turn, we'll do our part to end on a slower, softer note as well, to prepare them for their return to you.

- Although most children will readily join in our activities, some may be more hesitant and need some time to assimilate all that is involved. Since every child is different, we don't force a child to participate. Seeing their teacher and others model good participation is the best form of enticement, so just show them how much fun you are having! We will continue to invite them, and they will usually join in when they are ready.

After Music Class

- At the end of each class, every student will receive a participation stamp. Our Kidstunes hand stamp is primarily to remind Mom & Dad that their child went to music class. We hope this will stimulate conversation with their child about the music activities and concepts explored & remind them to read our weekly bulletin for all the details. Therefore, the stamp is earned simply by attending class and not given as a reward for good behavior or withheld for inappropriate behavior. If you (or our teacher) have something else you like to give as a reward, you may. However, please do not ask our teacher to withhold the Kidstunes stamp from a child for any reason (unless the parent has requested he/she not receive one).
- If possible, please try to reinforce the musical concepts we cover in class with your students throughout the week. For instance, on the playground you might revisit the musical terms "*largo*" (slow) and "*allegro*" (fast) in relation to their play. Or, you might use "*piano*" (soft) and "*forte*" (loud) to describe sounds they hear (train whistle, bird chirping, etc.)! Likewise, we will be happy to incorporate your classroom themes in our lessons when we can. We know that a whole learning experience is best for young students, so let us know what you are working on. If possible, we'll correlate that into our lessons as well! As always, if you or any member of your staff has a question, we encourage you to contact us at the number above, OR speak directly to the Kidstunes Instructor assigned to your school!