

Music Together Fosters the Music Maker in All of Us

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We're all born musical. We're wired to make sound and move our bodies to the rhythms in our world. As parents, we are responsible for bringing our child's musical appreciation to fruition from their very beginnings. Children learn most everything by processing information and later turning what they learned into practice. The same holds true for learning music. *Music Together* is an internationally recognized, research-based program which provides the rich environment needed to effectively introduce music to our children.

Karee Justice-Bondy is often referred to in Colorado as the "pioneer of *Music Together*". She brought the first session to life in 1997, and together with her husband Steve Bondy have expanded the program by adding classes in just about every neighborhood in Denver including Lowry. Of almost 70 classes offered throughout the city, there are a dozen offered right here in our backyard. Lowry classes are held in the mornings at Colorado Free University Monday through Friday at various times.

Music Together is designed for infants to children between the ages of four and five. The program is built on a foundation of four basic principles. First, all children are musical. As mentioned earlier, we are born to make music and move to rhythms and beats. Next, there is a deep-rooted belief that every child can achieve basic music competence. This means any child can learn to sing in tune, keep a beat and participate in a musical environment with confidence. Most kids, by the age of nine or 10 have achieved their maximum musical aptitude. In addition, when a child's primary care giver acts as a role model, children can also achieve basic music competence. The success of a *Music Together* class is largely based on the participation, though not musical perfection, of the adults in the classroom. You do not need to be musical yourself to benefit from the experience of sharing music with your child, however, your participation is a key to their learning process. Finally, when all of the above is accompanied by a variety of music delivered in an appropriate manner, children can achieve their full musical potential.

You may be wondering what a *Music Together* class is like. Let's just say you've never had more fun with your child for 45 minutes than you have at one of these classes. Classes are held once a week for eight - 10 weeks per session. Each week you and your child will experience a musically nutritious balance of world music, traditional folk songs, lullabies and instrumentals. Class sizes range from eight to 10 kids, with a maximum of 12 kids for any given class. Any larger of a class and the adults tend to lose focus, not to mention smaller classes encourage community and a chance to get to know your neighbor. Each class begins and ends with a *Hello* and *Goodbye* song where each child is recognized by name by their classmates. In between these tunes, instructors lead by example using interactive songs that get you off your feet. Having a little guy in class myself, now that I think of it, sometimes class could take the place of my morning workout!

Karee explained it best when she said, "Making music is as much a birth right as walking and talking." There's only way to find out how much truth *really* is in that statement. See for yourself and sign-up today!

For information and schedules, visit www.ttlc-mt.com. Both Karee and Steve are Certified Level II instructors and have Master's degrees in music from University of Denver.