

KINDERMUSIK OUR TIME® COURTESY INFORMATION

1. The **class will begin on time** regardless of how many children are in attendance. The **Hello Song** is your cue that your attention should now be focused on your child and the activities your teacher is providing. **Please restrict social talk with other adults during class time.** Take advantage of this wonderful and rare opportunity to fully focus on your child.
2. The **home materials** you receive at the first class are for home use. Utilize these home learning resources as a way to extend the class experience throughout the week. They are designed to support you in your role as your child's best teacher.
3. **Always be enthusiastic and smile often with your child in class.** Attempt to participate in all activities. Use the teacher as your model and your child will model you. The teacher will, in turn, customize the activities based on the responses of the children.
4. **Try to learn the songs and activities as quickly as possible.** This will greatly enhance your child's participation and enjoyment both in class and at home.
5. **90% of your child's responses may occur at home and not in class.** This is nothing to worry about, as long as you're observing musical response somewhere. There are many factors that will affect this, for instance, the personality, age and learning style of the child, the child's comfort level and day-to-day temperament, the level and enthusiasm of the parent or caregiver, the amount of music-making enjoyed in the home, as well as the length of time the child is involved in the program.
6. **If your child's behavior does become disruptive** (ie. excessively loud, about to hurt another child, overly aggressive, etc.), **please take him/her for a little "cooling down" period just outside the classroom door.** If possible, hold your child so he/she can see what they are missing through the viewing window. Give them simple choices about returning to the class, such as, "Are you ready to join the fun again or do you want to stay here and be sad?" Sometimes more than one time-out may be necessary, but soon your child will adopt appropriate behavior. Do not allow your child to play with the toys in the waiting room during this time. Speak to your teacher about any concerns you may have in this regard. She is equipped with lots of ideas and suggestions to help you both get the most out of this program.
7. **While in class, participate with your child in a way that is developmentally appropriate for him/her.** Follow your child's lead. If he/she strays from the group, you can either attempt to continue to participate in an enthusiastic manner and direct your focus on the activities so that your child may observe and model your response. Or, if you feel it's more appropriate, follow your child and do the activity "on the move". With this age group, this type of parental response is far more effective than a reprimand or negative attention. Be sure to praise your child often when they are behaving appropriately. Please remember that "walking feet" are more appropriate in the classroom than "running feet", unless an activity calls for it. **The most successful classes are those where everyone is doing the activity in his/her own way.**
8. **Never try to force your child to participate in class** (ie. such as physically manipulating your child's hands to tap or clap to the music). Children 1½ through 3 years of age will participate on their own when they are ready; forcing them only seems to delay their active involvement. Allow the child to "unfold" at his/her own pace. Gently encourage then praise them for their participation.
9. **Don't be afraid to sing to/with your child!** He/she loves the sound of your voice no matter how badly you think you sound! Please attempt to sing using your head voice in a higher register than you may be used to. The Home CD and your child's teacher will provide you with an appropriate vocal model. Don't hesitate to ask your teacher for help if you're feeling uncomfortable with singing.
10. **Try to observe your child objectively, both at home and in class.** Remember to look for the little signs that show your child is engaged (ie. eye contact, body posture, and spontaneous musical play at home). Try to avoid making comparisons between the children. Each one will respond in his/her own special way and time, like the flowers that bloom in the garden.

Thank you for choosing Kindermusik® – where a good beginning never ends!