



Magic Flute Montessori Music School

Sunny Isles, FL 33160

Welcome to *Child & Me Music Program* at Magic Flute Montessori Music School!

This innovative **Child & Me Music Program** offers a carefully sequenced curriculum designed to tap into skills that research and experience have shown: “**All children have an inborn ability to sing on pitch and to keep a steady beat.**” Do not worry about your child’s ability to sing on pitch or play on a beat. These skills can be developed over time in a quality music program and the earlier the child begins, the easier it is. The only children who will **never** match pitch or keep a steady beat are the ones who are told that they **cannot!**

Your child is on an exciting path of **Child & Me** music making which spans from birth. The benefits of music education are many. Music immerses the child in language, enhances brain functioning, and fosters physical coordination. Music improves overall development and decreases learning problems. Music has even been connected with resiliency which is the ability to bounce back after a disturbing event.

Whether you are a trained musician or a novice, **Child & Me Music Program** provides a nurturing, safe space, for you to share the love of music with your child. The children who are of the age for *Family Music* learn best through free play. We will **SING, LISTEN, DANCE, PLAY GAMES, PLAY INSTRUMENTS, EXPLORE SOUNDS, AND GIGGLE & WIGGLE TOGETHER.** We hope that you enjoy the class as much as the teachers and children do!

Coming to class:

1. Please try your best to arrive on time. The greeting song is an important part of our weekly routine, and each child needs the consistency of it. Do not forget to get a name tag for your child at the reception.
2. Teach your child to **walk** through the hallways at Magic Flute Montessori Music School, so as not to disturb the vital work of those in other rooms.
3. We leave shoes outside the classroom so that we can protect little hands & feet. It will also help us all move more freely, so leave them in the shoe cubby.

4. Bringing food, drinks, toys or other distractions into music class *causes* problems rather than providing comfort for your child. Since another child might want your child's pacifier or toy, or your child may not want to leave a special toy or snack outside the door, it is often easier to try to find a way to leave those things either at home or in the car.

During class:

1. Please silence cell phones and avoid using them in class.
2. Participate and sing in all of the activities with us. You are your child's best teacher! Children learn through observation and absorbing; your child needs to see you having fun and to hear you singing. Do not worry if your voice is not perfect. Your child will want to hear your familiar voice and will not care one bit about any imperfections.
3. Do not worry about your child's ability to sing on pitch. It is a developmental task that has a wide age variance. The only children who will **never** match pitch are the ones who are told that they cannot!
4. Allow your child to participate when ready. Children learn by associating a visual beat they see with the music they hear; helping a child move his/her arms to the beat DOES NOT ACTUALLY HELP. Children learn much more by observing you. Often, a child will need to stand or sit and watch at first. This is known as participating *internally*, and we welcome it!
5. **Child & Me Music Program** is about the **process** of music making, not **performance**. Please hold your applause when a child does something on his/her own, such as repeating a pattern or playing on the drum or resonator bars. Moreover, one child's response to a song might be singing, while another child's equally good response might be listening. Music is its *own* reward.
6. Help us try to keep instruments out of mouths. Some children this age still love to explore objects with their mouths. We would like to avoid sharing germs on our instruments! If your child does put a stick or jingle bell in her mouth, please hand it the teacher separately so that it can be sanitized for the next class.
7. Please, *do not carry on conversations with other grown-ups* once class begins. Your child needs your undivided attention! This becomes a challenge as everyone makes friends, but your attention will help the children appreciate our efforts as teachers. This will be a life-long lesson for your child.
8. If you would like to, **do** find time to visit with the other grown-ups **after class**, if you wish. Having a community of adult friends is essential. Feel free to visit in our family waiting room or stand outside the building around the little bridge where the children love to play or arrange to meet at a playground or Starbucks!
9. If you find that you need to redirect behavior, try using your hands or gently redirect

rather than speaking, so that others can continue to focus on the class. It is normal for children this age to explore the room, even during class. As long as the child is not disturbing other children, let the wanderer wander. By continuing to participate, you are modeling your love of music, and your child should soon come back and join you. If for some reason, your child becomes a distraction for the other children, calmly take him or her out for a moment and allow to calm down.

During the week:

★ Listen, listen, listen to any song from lessons, and sing, sing, sing with your child at home, at a doctor office, while shopping, etc. This is your family's homework. Children this age need lots and lots of repetition. Play your recordings at home and in the car. Sing together, with and without the recordings. Bounce your child on your knees while singing one of the bouncing songs. Do a finger play while on the changing table. Walk to the park singing a song about walking or running. Join hands with the family to do one of the circle games that we do at the end of class. Sing a rocking song every night before bedtime.

Cancellations and make-ups:

If there is an ongoing class of the same level, you are welcome to make-up a **missed class** within the same semester. We are looking forward to spending a wonderful semester of watching your children grow in so many ways! We always welcome your questions, comments, and especially, cute stories!



If you have questions, feel free to send us a message. The associates will get back to you as soon as possible.

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