



SONGBIRD KIDS

Rachel Whitenton

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With experience leading music and movement classes for more than 350 children and drawing on 30+ years of a rich musical background in piano, violin, and vocal performance, Rachel celebrates & encourages the musicality of young children through movement, music, instruments, & play.

Songbird Kids

Family Classes

Itsy Bitsy in Chicago, IL | January 2026 – March 2026

Baylor University in Waco, TX | January 2023 – October 2024

Compleo Physical Therapy & Wellness in Woodway, TX | September 2022 – May 2023

Preschool Classes

Cedar Rock Children's House in Crawford, TX | February 2022 – June 2023

Lake Shore Baptist Children's Center in Waco, TX | October 2022 – June 2023

Summer Camps

Itsy Bitsy in Chicago, IL | Summer 2025

Baylor University in Waco, TX | Summer 2023 & 2024

Waco Montessori School in Waco, TX | Summer 2022

Musical Work Experience

St. Paul's Episcopal School | Waco, TX | February 2022 – April 2022

Long-Term Music Substitute

- Implemented lesson plans for all enrolled students (ages 18 months to 12 years old)
- Personalized the instruction for early toddlers, 2's, 3's, and preschoolers
- Assisted with hot lunches by organizing them and delivering them to classrooms
- Graded assessments
- Assigned grades for report cards
- Collaborated with other teachers for behavioral interventions

Tiny Treble Makers (Music Together®) | Waco, TX | August 2019 – April 2022

Registered Music Together® Teacher and Licensed In-School Specialist

- Planned & taught weekly classes (both in person and on Zoom) that facilitated creative musical expression with and without instruments, rhythmic movement, and connection with friends and families.
- Encouraged families and caregivers to participate in music-making at home
- Attended online Songs & Skills workshops
- Participated in professional development webinars (e.g., "How Music Supports Executive Function," Dr. Lili Levinowitz, May 7, 2021)
- Maintained the Family Portal webpage
- Marketed classes on social media platforms
- Provided free, online demo classes to three Early Childhood classes at Waco Montessori School during quarantine
- Donated MT merchandise for Waco Montessori School's silent auction

Key achievement:

- Quickly and successfully transitioned from in-person classes to an online platform at the start of the pandemic, bringing Music Together to families all over the country (Colorado, Georgia, Minnesota, & Texas).

Other Work Experience

Baylor University Graduate School | Waco, TX | August 2010 – May 2014

Assistant for Graduate Studies and Professional Development

- Managed benefits for graduate students
- Completed expense reports
- Scheduled meetings and maintained data on graduate students
- Coordinated events for graduate faculty, staff, and students
- Maintained budgets for various student groups
- Prepared travel documents and itineraries
- Created and updated webpages

Key achievement:

- Initiated collaboration with Baylor's Information Technology Services (ITS) to develop a simplified process for determining which Teachers of Record qualified for benefits, a very time-intensive process without the help of ITS.

CPMG, Inc. | Dallas, TX | September 2008 – May 2010

Administrative Associate

- Provided administrative support to office management and research analysts by:
 - Greeting guests and creating a warm front office environment
 - Scheduling calls and meetings
 - Entering data into spreadsheets
 - Executing various administrative tasks including, but not limited to, filing, sorting mail, copying, scanning, faxing, and ordering supplies
- Assisted CPA by:
 - Creating monthly and quarterly Excel reports
 - Paying company bills
 - Reconciling bank accounts

Dartmouth Elementary, Richardson ISD | Richardson, TX | August 2006 – June 2008

Fourth Grade Teacher

- Collaborated with teachers to plan and implement lessons in all subjects
- Scheduled and facilitated parent conferences
- Maintained detailed portfolios on all students

Key achievement:

- Fostered a caring, compassionate classroom environment for all students by adopting Tribes Learning Communities, a social emotional learning program (now called Peace Learning Circles).

Education

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (magna cum laude)

Emphasis in Early Childhood Education

Texas A&M University in College Station, TX

2002–2006

Invited Presentations

Guest Presenter for Dr. Lesley McAllister's Pedagogy II class, Baylor University (February 7, 2023)

"Music and Movement in the Early Childhood Classroom" at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Waco, TX (November 16, 2022)

Relevant Skills

- Communication
- Enthusiasm & friendliness
- Learner-centered instruction
- Quick learner
- Perspective-taking
- Team-player
- Creative
- Empathy & compassion
- Modeling cultural humility
- Cooperative learning
- Voice, piano, violin, & ukulele
- Music theory
- Translating & integrating complex musical elements into instruction
- Gregarious
- Trustworthy
- Organized
- Fluent in Microsoft Office 365 Suite, proficient in HTML code and multiple social media platforms

Music Teaching Certifications & Continuing Education

- The Learning Groove Teacher Training (August 31, 2022)
- Music Together® Teacher Training (July 26-28, 2019)
- Attended all Music Together® Online (MTO) webinars
- "Effects and Mechanisms of Music Listening on Clinical Outcomes: A Discussion of Music-Oriented Cognitive-Affective Theory and Current Studies" April 6, 2022. Graduate Colloquium for Psychology & Neuroscience at Baylor University. Morgan Snyder and Joshua Rhodes. Mind-Body Medicine Research Lab.

References (contact information available upon request)

Dr. Lesley McAllister, D.M.A.

Professor of Piano, Director of Piano Pedagogy, and Director of Keyboard Studies, Baylor University

Lauren M. Weber, MFA, MM

Senior Lecturer of Theatre in Musical Theatre (Voice), Baylor University

M'Lissa Howen, M.Ed.

Head of School, St. Paul's Episcopal School

Dr. Thomas Spitzer-Hanks, Ph.D.

Former Chair of the Board, Lake Shore Baptist Children's Center

Dr. T. Laine Scales, Ph.D.

Professor & PhD Co-Director, Diana R. Garland School of Social Work

Dr. Larry Lyon, Ph.D.

Vice Provost & Dean, Baylor University Graduate School