

Hello New 2's!!

It's an exciting time for your child and the music class is going to be even more exciting!

As with all 2's - they are just at that stage where they can't decide whether they need you or don't need you - they want independence, but they don't!! Everything they do is natural and in preparation for separating at class next week - here are some tips for your 2 and how this is going to be fabulous!!

1. Talk about "Kramer" like you have known me since Kindergarten! All the time but attach no emotion to me - like: "I think you'll like Kramer" - more like "Kramer is your music teacher" "Kramer loves music" "Kramer loves teaching children" - "Kramer can't wait to meet you" (everyone calls me Kramer or Razzle Dazzle - not sure how either got started!)
2. Listen to music all the time - so that they know that music is important to you.
3. Sing anything all the time - sing directions, sing lullabies - sing sing sing
4. Do not carry them into the waiting room - walk hand in hand; do not hold them in your lap or hold them while standing - you are starting to separate them from the get go - even before we go to the music room.
5. Do not arrive late and do not arrive too early - 5 minutes before class is just about the right amount of time
6. Do not bring anything with you that they know/think is for them - no diaper bag filled with toys or snacks, etc.
7. Do not walk in carrying anything that you are going to take away from them like a blanket, toy, or pacifier, etc.
8. Do not have them eating or drinking right before class - no juice boxes - no snack - no nothing - no water - zilch - nothing
9. When you arrive - all your attention is on ME (yes, Kramer) - you talk to me and engage with me and we will likely ignore them; I will say hello to them - but nothing crazy; I will also take them from you and go into the room - screaming, kicking, crying, etc. I establish early and quickly that I am in charge. They will test me and try to see what I am all about. They are smart and they will do anything to get their way - you know about this!
10. Remind them 70,000 times that you will see them after they make their picture

11. Don't tell them to be a "big boy or girl" - that they will have "fun" - put no emotion on anything they will do - they get to decide how they feel; rather - "I can't wait to hear all about what you did in class" "I wonder if you'll play the piano"? "I wonder if you are going to play the drums?" "I wonder what you will sing about?" "I can't wait to hear all about music class!"

12. No matter what is happening in the music room - do not rescue them - we are safe - they are safe - they are fine and if something should happen that I think I need you - I will come get you; I sound like a broken record in class (which is super-fast paced and lots of activities) If someone is upset - I let them know I see them and yet we go on with class - I tell them the same things over and over again and I never tell them "it will be ok - or you'll be ok" - they don't think so - so instead I refocus, redirect and reiterate; also there are a ton of "veteran 2's" in your class - kids take their cues from other kids perfectly

13. After class: SUPER important: - again, do not attach emotion to anything - don't ask them "Did you have fun?" Instead - stick to the facts: "Did you play the piano?" What was the color today? Etc. Do not ask them if they want to come back - you are the boss, and they will come back.

14. Do not be surprised if they are fine during class and the minute you walk in for the last 5- minutes - they self-combust! They are reminding you that even though they were fine - you left them! (Smart people!)

15. Don't be surprised (if they were upset) that the minute you drive up next week - they start saying "No Music" - you say: "Yes, music"

16. During the week - remember, ask only leading questions about activities - read the books recommended, listen to the music - go over anything and everything and keep talking about Kramer; hang their picture up and ask them to keep telling you more about class; have them do a "pretend class" and show you what they did

Ah - this is going to be great and if you have any questions I can address - let me know. I have been doing this for a L O N G time and please know there have been thousands that have been in the 2's program since 1965 - we can do this - if we stick to the plan!! And I know it is hard to hear your child upset - so think about leaving and going for coffee or Target or a long walk during class!