



MUSIC TOGETHER®

MUSIC TOGETHER OF THE GREATER ROCKFORD AREA

MusicNotes, MTGRA Newsletter for Parents and Children

Bongos Collection 2008



Parents are Important!

What you can do to foster a positive musical disposition in your child

Excerpted from Music Together Babies Kitty Collection Songbook

There is a special relationship between a baby (or toddler) and the care-giving adult. Several decades ago, British pediatrician and psychiatrist Donald Winnicott shocked his colleagues by suggesting that there was no such thing as a baby—only a baby and caregiver together. If the baby does not think of himself apart from the parent, then the parent becomes an integral part of how the child sees himself and the world. He sees your singing as his singing, your dancing as his dancing. In contrast, if you do not sing or dance, then he does not see himself as capable of these things. What we do as parents is internalized as what the child does as well.



That's why in the Music Together program, we recognize the fundamental power of significant relationships as the catalyst for musical growth. While music skills can be learned from a teacher, the motivation to enjoy music making can be learned only from people who care for the baby. A love of music cannot be applied to a baby like baby lotion, or taught to a baby through teacher instruction, or passively absorbed from a CD player or television. Babies can learn to love and enjoy music only through you and the caregivers you choose.

Remember that children learn three things from the grown-ups around them: skills, knowledge, and dispositions. Skills and knowledge can be learned from teachers or others who do not have an emotional tie to the child. Dispositions—attitudes and life habits—can be learned only from parents or significant caregivers. Dispositions are important because they motivate children to learn. When caregivers genuinely enjoy an activity, the children, wanting to be like the adults, will, too. And none of this has anything to do with how well you “perform” the activity!

Meet the Directors of MTGRA

We know Donna and Karen are both great teachers, but what's their story??

How did they meet and open a Music Together Center??

Donna and Karen met back in 1990, when both were new music teachers in Rockford School District 205. Karen was a new teacher, and Donna was returning to full-time work after taking a hiatus to raise her children. The two met at a music teacher meeting and have been trading ideas ever since. They spent two weeks together one summer taking Orff Level 1, shared many hotel rooms at music teacher conventions, and even teamed up to teach 7th grade general music at West Middle School before Karen moved to California, in 1994.



Fast forward to 2005, when Karen was living in San Francisco. She took her daughter to Music Together classes, fell in love with the program, and decided to become a Music Together teacher. She even called Donna to tell her about the program and ask for advice.

Another move put Karen right back in Rockford, IL, where there was no Music Together center. She told Donna about how she wanted to open a center. Later, Donna prodded Karen about it and they decided to become a team once again.

Both Karen and Donna are so excited about Music Together! When they sing, "We're so glad to see you!" they really mean it.

Featured Location

Belvidere Park District

This month we are featuring the Belvidere Park District. Music Together holds classes at the River's Edge Recreation Center on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. We chose the River's Edge Center because of its unique setting near the Kishwaukee River and close proximity to Belvidere Park. The park has many amenities, including two playground areas, a rope bridge, a concert pavilion, and many lovely, large pieces of artwork around the park. In summer time, there is a public swimming pool for all to enjoy. If you need to make up a class, it is a perfect way to see this GREAT place!



Good Tunes

What we've been listening to lately

Since Halloween is upon us, we are listening to *In the Hall of the Mountain King* from *Peer Gynt*, by Edward Grieg. Other favorites include *Toccata and Fugue in d minor* (BWV 565), by Bach, and Mozart's *Requiem*. We also listen to the Music Together CD (of course!).

Upcoming Events

Join us for Parent Education Night

Parent Education Night

Parent Education Night will be held on October 14, at 6:30 pm, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Karen and Donna will give a brief presentation on the Music Together philosophy, your importance as a role model, and expectations you should have for your child and yourself.

This meeting will last about 45 minutes and is for adults only (no child care is provided), and refreshments will be served.

Donut Day

Look for news about Donut Day! We will be serving up donut holes one day after class! We'll let you know more details soon!

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