

A NEW SEMESTER



The start of each class is a new beginning full of tremendous potential for your child, the family, and me, the educator. The children and parents typically greet the first class with a mixture of emotions, perhaps excitement and nervousness. Right from the very first class, we begin establishing the emotional connections that will create a powerfully effective learning environment and an opportunity for friendships to be formed, lives to be touched and a love of music to be fostered. We are ready to respond and adapt to the varied needs, gifts and wishes of each class participant – adult or child.

GETTING TO KNOW THE FAMILIES

Some of you may already know some of the families in your class, while others are new to each other. In our Gathering Time we encourage families to “get to know one another.” Your child will learn from you, when he/she sees you socializing and finding your emotional comfort in the group. Some conversation starters are:

- Do you have other children/siblings?
- Birth order/Ages?
- Does the parent have other Occupation/Hobbies – Outside of full-time Parenting?
- How long have you been in Kindermusik? How old when started?
- Where do you live?



We encourage networking and playgroup interaction within our families. If you would like to know the contact information for someone in your class please let us know and we will share that with you, unless the family has asked us to keep their information private.



SAYING GOODBYE TO THE GROWNUPS

As you prepare to separate from your child, observe your child’s reactions. Some children may need their adult with them a bit longer than others. Reassure your child that you will be right outside the door and anxious to do your REJOINING RITUAL that you practiced. Your child may want to choose the place where you will be sitting while outside the classroom, so they will know right where to find you should they need you. Remember our GOODBYE TO GROWNUPS song assures your little one that you will be right outside the door should they need you.

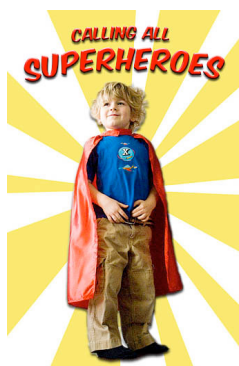
Goodbye grownups. See you in 20 minutes or sooner if we need you!

REJOINING RITUAL

Remember the 3 aspects to a great “I LOVE YOU RITUAL” as Becky Bailey suggests are:

- 1) Eye-to-Eye Contact
- 2) Touch
- 3) Sentence, Poem, Words

-Specific to your child and that rejoining moment, that can be repeated exactly the same week after week. If you haven’t had a chance to read *I Love You Rituals* by Becky Bailey, it’s a great, short read.



EMOTIONAL PROFILE OF 3-5 YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

- May experience separation anxiety.
- Are often wanting to “be in charge” (transitions, direction of play, etc)
- Are learning how to take turns, occasionally finding it difficult.
- Are learning to make friends.
- enjoy being independent and doing things on their own, but become easily frustrated if problems arise.
- Seek frequent approval from adults – yet challenge parent’s power of choice.
- Love make-believe.
- Are proud of accomplishments.
- Experience mood changes.
- Are aware, perhaps protective, of their personal space.