

# Young Years Corner

Spring 2008

## Contents:

*Miss Karen's Chatter*- Notes from Young Years teacher and coordinator Karen Zelle

*Music with Love (Mrs., that is!)* – Notes from Young Years teacher Nancy Love

*Music Advocacy's Top Ten Quotes*



## *Miss Karen's Chatter*

Welcome! If you are visiting this site then you are already aware of the value of early music exposure. Enrolling in a music class is a great step towards giving your child a life filled with music. The following paragraphs contain ideas that you can use at home to build upon the concepts introduced in music class.

### Creating Music

Be an original music advocate - Encourage your child to create music of her own. Provide items that create a wide spectrum of sound thereby stimulating the musical imagination such as:

Washcloths – quiet sound

New, dried sponges – scratchy sound

Dried leaves – crunchy sound

Empty gallon milk jugs with small rubber balls inside – booming, thunder-type sound

Pot/pan/utensil – clanging sound

Particle material such as rice, rocks, dry pasta or coins placed inside of a sealed container such as a butter tub can lead to thoughts of rain, the ocean, etc.

Have your child invent songs or song-stories. You may need to prime the pump by talking with your child about his likes and/or dislikes, feelings, pets, family members, outings, etc. These can all be great song themes. One of my students created a song about the love she shares for her sister and the things that they like to do together...how great is that?!

If your child is comfortable with being recorded, put his music on tape. He may enjoy listening to his original piece of music. On occasion, I use a small tape recorder purchased from an office supply store in my classroom.

### Family Jam

Have the entire family gather together for a jam session!! Use any musical instruments that you own or instruments that you have created and make music!!

*(continued)*

### Music Appreciation

I recently came upon an interesting quote referring to music preferences that says, "it is not that you know what you like, it's that you like what you know."

Introduce your child to many styles of music. Every culture has wonderful music that can expand your child's listening palette. Putumayo World Music ([www.putumayo.com](http://www.putumayo.com)) is one great resource for multicultural music.

Listen to music, draw to music, dance to music, play instruments to music, create a dramatic play to music, turn out the lights, lie on the floor and let flashlights move to music.

### Seizing Opportunities for Music Development

You can find rhythm, sound and even melody in many of life's activities as well. Fine tune your child's listening skills by taking note of the sounds and rhythms of things around you. Give your child a chance to replicate these sounds with his voice and body. Some examples include:

Ball play (this can easily be made into a musical activity by singing or chanting while playing).

Walking  
Running

Jumping  
Rocking

Stirring  
Dusting

Scrubbing  
Cutting with scissors

Vehicle engines  
Windshield wipers  
Trains  
Trains  
Clocks

Echoes in buildings  
Weather: wind, rain, thunder  
Animal sounds  
Animal sounds  
Water filling a sink or bathtub

Home appliances  
(dishwashers, microwaves,  
mixers, coffee makers)

I would love to hear your ideas for creating a musical environment for your family. Please send them to me (Karen Zelle) at [kzelle@webster.edu](mailto:kzelle@webster.edu). I will be happy to share them at this site.

Happy music-making!

*Miss Karen*

## *Music with Love (Mrs., that is!)*

The world of transportation is being discovered through music for our toddlers in *Our Time*.

*Imagine That!* students have been working hard at the Toy Shop creating all sorts of toys and worlds for them to live in. Now we are off on a few trips on boats and trains, singing our way across the continent.



This is always a "bittersweet time" in *Young Child 4* – children whom we have seen grow up in our programs, those who have parents who "caught the vision " of what an early childhood musical education can mean for their child's overall development, to see them put it all together, showing skill with a glockenspiel, dulcimer, and recorder as well as developing their voices. Now they know the notes on the musical treble clef staff and understand dynamics. Our greatest hope is that they have learned to love music and will keep it in a corner or maybe the front stage of their lives. Our hats off to the consistency of the parents and the opportunity they have also given us teachers to share our love of music and to get to know their very special children.

*Mrs. Love*

## **Music Advocacy's Top Ten Quotes**

Reprinted from The Children's Music Workshop ([www.childrensmusicworkshop.com](http://www.childrensmusicworkshop.com))

1. "During the Gulf War, the few opportunities I had for relaxation I always listened to music, and it brought me great peace of mind. I have shared my love of music with people throughout this world, while listening to the drums and special instruments of the Far East, Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Far North, and all of this started with the music appreciation course that I was taught in a third-grade elementary class in Princeton, New Jersey. What a tragedy it would be if we lived in a world where music was not taught to children." - *General H. Norman Schwarzkopf — United States Army*

2. "Music is exciting. It is thrilling to be sitting in a group of musicians playing (more or less) the same piece of music. You are part of a great, powerful, vibrant entity. And nothing beats the feeling you get when you've practiced a difficult section over and over and finally get it right. (yes, even on the wood block.) Music is important. It says things your heart can't say any other way, and in a language everyone speaks. Music crosses borders, turns smiles into frowns, and vice versa. These observations are shared with a hope: that, when schools cut back on music classes, they really think about what they're doing - and don't take music for granted." - *Dan Rather — CBS News*

3. "In every successful business...there is one budget line that never gets cut. It's called 'Product Development' – and it's the key to any company's future growth. Music education is critical to the product development of this nation's most important resource – our children."  
- *John Sykes — President, VH1*

4. "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage and pride in results. . . Not a bad preparation for the workforce!"  
- *Gregory Anrig – President, Educational Testing Service*

5. "Music is an essential part of everything we do. Like puppetry, music has an abstract quality which speaks to a worldwide audience in a wonderful way that nourishes the soul."  
- *Jim Henson – television producer and puppeteer*

6. "Should we not be putting all our emphasis on reading, writing and math? The 'back-tobasics curricula,' while it has merit, ignores the most urgent void in our present system – absence of self-discipline. The arts, inspiring – indeed requiring – self-discipline, may be more 'basic' to our nation survival than traditional credit courses. Presently, we are spending 29 times more on science than on the arts, and the result so far is worldwide intellectual embarrassment."  
- *Paul Harvey – syndicated radio show host*

7. "It's [music education] terribly important, extremely important -- because when you are a child, you are in a receptive age ... In high schools, public schools -- that's where they must have the best influence, the first influence, which will go through their whole life."  
- *Eugene Ormandy – conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra*

8. "It is our job, as parents, educators, and friends, to see that our young people have the opportunity to attain the thorough education that will prepare them for the future. Much of that education takes place in the classroom. We must encourage our youngsters in such pursuits as music education. In addition to learning the valuable lesson that it takes hard work to achieve success, no matter what the arena, music education can provide students with a strong sense of determination, improved communication skills, and a host of other qualities essential for successful living."  
- *Edward H. Rensi – President and Chief Operation Officer, U.S.A. McDonald's Corporation*

9. "A grounding in the arts will help our children to see; to bring a uniquely human perspective to science and technology. In short, it will help them as they grow smarter to also grow wiser."  
- *Robert E. Allen – Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, AT&T Corporation*

10. "Some people think music education is a privilege, but I think it's essential to being human."  
- *Jewel – singer, songwriter, and instrumentalist*