



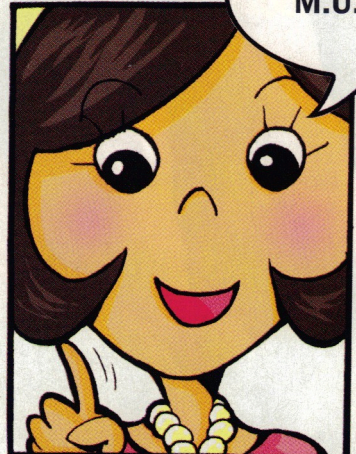
An original story that touches the heart, makes you laugh, uplifts the spirit and focuses on bringing parent and child closer.

Read the story to your children at bedtime or anytime of the day to bring their imaginations to life.

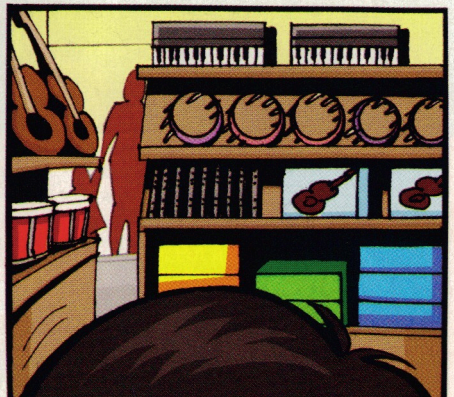
Music for Daniel



My son loves books. I bring him to the library every week. Daniel can sit quietly for hours flipping through page after page and tracing the outline of the colourful pictures, oblivious to the other children running noisily around him.



On one of these afternoons as I sat at one of the small yellow tables reading a magazine, he came up to me with a book in his hands. On the cover was a picture of a man playing a flute with a stream of rats following him. He opened the book to a page in the middle and pointed to a drawing of wavy musical notes weaving across the page.



How do I explain music to him? I thought. He has always lived in his own silent world. "I'll explain to you later, okay honey?" He nodded and returned to his favourite corner in the library. On the way home, I stopped by the supermarket and bought a toy flute and a plastic drum.

We sat together in the living room while I unwrapped the toys and placed them before Daniel. I took his hand and placed some of his fingers just above a few of the holes of the flute.



This is a flute..

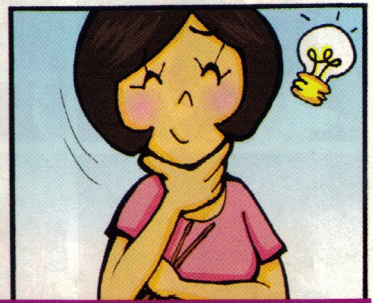


Music?



Then I blew into the mouthpiece and watched his face as the air blew out against his fingers. "That's music," I told him. But I could see that he still didn't understand. I then took the drum and put it in front of him. "D.R.U.M." I spelled out for him. I placed his hands on the sides of the drum before taking the drumsticks and giving the drum a few beats. His eyes widened at the vibrations from the drum. Music? He mouthed. I nodded. For the next few days, he was kept amused by the drum. During that time, I asked around for information about music classes for children like Daniel.

A few weeks later, we climbed the stairs up to the first floor for Daniel's first music class. I squeezed his hand for encouragement as



Hi, welcome! I'm Katie..

we stood in front of the door. "Hi, welcome!" A friendly looking woman greeted us, "I'm Katie." Katie then gave us a balloon each.



She led us to a room where about fifteen other children sat waiting with their parents. Each of them was holding a balloon. Seeing my curiosity, Katie said, "You'll see." She led us to some empty seats. "Welcome everyone. I just wanted to remind you to hold your balloon like this before we begin," she demonstrated, "Okay, enjoy!". The musician started playing. And then as the music flowed throughout the room, I began to feel the vibrations of the music through the balloons. I looked at Daniel and all the other children in the room and I saw that they were transfixed. I guessed that for most of them, this would be their first introduction to music. At the end of the performance, Daniel looked up at me with shining eyes. Mummy, he signed, I know what music is now!

Mummy, I know what music is now!

