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What are Musikgarten Family Materials?

Why are they so important for our children?

All Musikgarten family materials center around a CD which includes songs, stories, poems and listening games. Having family packets at home enables the child to absorb the songs that make up the core repertoire of the music program. For the very young child, the more familiar something is, the more s/he enjoys it, and he more readily s/he will participate. For the older child, familiarity with the material allows him or her to engage in complex activities such as dancing, building an instrumental ensemble, or playing a game that combines singing, movement, working with a partner, etc. If the child doesn't know the song well, s/he will stop singing as soon as another element is introduced; singing is what enables the child to internalize the song, and thereby is essential in guiding his movement and regulating his rhythm as he plays an instrument.

In most programs, children have music once a week. If that is the only exposure the children have to active music-making, they will never be comfortable enough with the material to be able to participate fully and enjoy it completely. In essence, the experience may end up being entertaining, but it will fall short of being an educational experience which develops the skills of an independent musician.

Schools that provide or require family materials enable parents to connect with their child's school experience through the music. These connections are so important, particularly to working parents.

Most parents already provide their children with a wealth of both CDs and DVDs. Sesame Street, Disney, Barney, and countless others have been popular at different times. However, unlike most of them, Musikgarten CDs will provide your children with wonderful singing models. They have children singing in the proper range with an appropriate tone quality. This is important if we want the children to develop their ability to "carry a tune". Just as listening to language is an essential element in learning to speak, listening to good singing is the single most important element in learning to sing. The nature of the repertoire, instrumental arrangements, and performances are also of exceptional quality. In addition to the overall quality of the sound, the children on the CDs sound as though they are having fun!
