

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MUSIKGARTEN'S  
MUSIC MAKERS AT THE KEYBOARD (MMKB) PROGRAMME (FAQ)**

**1. What is perfect pitch?**

The ability to recognize by hearing the note "Middle C" and other letter names when they are played on a musical instrument, usually the piano.

**2. Is there any advantage in learning music if the child has "perfect pitch"?**

Yes and No.

Yes, it means that the child can focus on hearing and has sharp listening skills. He or she will most likely be able to acquire the skills to "play by ear" very easily.

No, if the child can only identify sounds/pitches by their letter names and is not taught other musical skills such as:

- The ability to tell whether the piece of music she/he has listened to is in "Major" or "Minor" Key. It is like knowing the alphabets A,B,C,D etc but not knowing what the word "BAD" means.
- The ability to recognize and sing at the same pitch as the song or piece of music that is being played. For example, some Karaoke singers tend to sing "off-key" because they are not able to recognize the key of the music.

**3. What is meant by "Fixed Do" and "Movable Do"?**

Some music syllabus such as YAMAHA uses the "Fixed Do" method and this means that "Do" is always the note Middle C i.e. fixed. Other music syllabus such as MUSIKGARTEN uses "Movable Do". This means that any note on the music scale can be the "Do". For example, the note "D" on the piano can be the "Do" if the composer chose to write the music piece in D Major or D Minor key.

**4. What is the advantage of "Movable Do"?**

Imagine you are the pianist who has to accompany someone who wants to sing. The song is written in C Major where the "Do" will be note Middle C. Upon singing the first few phrases, the singer finds that it is too low and wants to sing at a higher key, say starting at note E. This means that the pianist has to play the song in E Major i.e. to transpose it to another key. He will find it very difficult or almost impossible if he is not trained in the "Movable Do" system.

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