



Is my baby too young for a music class?

When children are exposed to music and musical play at a very young age, the learning goes in very deeply. This early experience makes it very easy for them to make their own music when they are ready to. It's really the same as talking to babies and exposing them to language even though they're not ready to talk on their own. Children don't develop language skills unless real people actually talk to them, and the same is true for children's musical development.

Just as with language, your modeling of the music activities will be profoundly influential for helping your child develop a sense for music. (And you don't have to be musically skilled to give your child this gift!)

When should I start?

Children are welcome in our Music Together classes at any age, from newborn babies to kindergarten age and sometimes even older. Sometimes pregnant moms even sign up for class in advance of their baby's birth!

This is also a wonderful opportunity for you to learn lullabies and play songs that you can use at home with your baby - in a sense, the class is great for filling your own "musical tool box".

What do the babies actually do?

It's amazing to consider, but even young infants will actually "sing!" Babies often match their vocalizations to the tonality of the music we're singing, and when we sing a different song, their vocalizing will change too. They often notice and respond to songs with unusual tonalities, and they express preferences for favorite songs - even songs they heard before they were born!

The babies in class frequently beam or look fascinated. They might wave their hands, kick their feet, or suck a pacifier in response to the music. They may alternately shake a shaker egg and put it in their mouth (We wash and sanitize all mouthed items!). They may watch their parent's face while a parent is singing, and sometimes reach up to touch their parent's mouth as they absorb this

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Heartland Music Together

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experience. Older babies might crawl into everything, or sit in the middle of the circle and "dance". Some songs will actually make babies or young children giggle - which is always fun for everyone!

A number of children in our Music Together classes started music classes at a very early age, and they are a joy to have in class. They tend to sing as easily and comfortably as they breathe, and they have no hesitations about diving in to new music experiences.

You're welcome to visit a Music Together class to find out if this is right for you and your baby. To schedule a class visit, contact Miriam at (502) 491-3131 or email at info@heartlandmusictogether.com.

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