

How To Raise A Musical Child

Even If You Don't Feel
Very Musical

Some Basic Truths About Music

- No culture has ever existed without developing it's own form of music
- Music creates healing
- Music is a skill that is developed not just something you are born with
- Music communicates a message

- Music is subjective
- Music is objective
 - Measurable elements
 - Pitch
 - Rhythm
 - Harmony
 - Tone Color
 - Tempo
 - Dynamics

- Music organizes the brain and helps the brain to make connections
 - It joins the left and right sides of the brain.
 - Albert Einstein when asked about his theory of relativity:

It occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception.

Myths About Music

Hurtful Assumptions

- Classifying a child's success based on their current ability rather than their potential
- Being hyper-critical or a perfectionist
- Pushing kids to do something they are not developmentally ready for
- Focusing on formal instruction without nurturing a musical lifestyle

The Talent Myth

- Talent vs. Skill
- Ability vs. Desire
- *The Talent Code* by Daniel Coyle
Greatness Isn't Born. It's Grown. Here's How
 - 3 Things Needed for Musical Excellence
 - Good Teacher
 - Motivation
 - Hard Work

The Carnegie Hall Myth

- Process vs. Outcome
 - Small activities build a musical bank account
 - Develops brain
 - Creates muscle memory
 - Builds emotional connection
 - Encourages analysis and mental connections
- Set Goals That Match Desire
- Push Gently to Move Goals Forward
- Change Ideas About Success
- Nurture Desire

The Music Education Myth

- Music Is More Than Taking Lessons To Learn an Instrument
- Learning to Listen
- Music engages the whole of life
 - It covers all disciplines: Art, Math, Science, Social Studies, History, Literature, Psychology, PE, Language, and more.
 - We engage in music as a whole person: emotionally, physically, spiritually and intellectually

The Music Education Myth

- Music is more than entertainment or fun. It really is a core subject
- Medical School
 - 66% of those who majored in music are successfully accepted to medical school
 - 44% of bio-chemistry majors are accepted



<http://thescholarlyredneck.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Mike-Huckabee-Art-and-music-education.mp4>

Simple Techniques

Develop Listening Skills

- Emotionally
 - How do you feel while listening and after?
 - Do your feelings change each time you hear the piece?
- Physically
 - Do you notice any physiological responses?
- Intellectually
 - What is going on in the music?
 - How does the music change?
 - What are the reasons for and effects of the change?
 - What instruments do you hear?

Unstructured Learning

- Tapping beats or rhythm as you listen
- Become more aware of music around you
- Learn with your kids.
- Write silly songs, play music games
- Make up rhythms, music, sound effects or body movements for everyday tasks
- Keep instruments easily available and only buy good ones
- Encourage Improvisation. Don't worry about how it sounds.

Engage Your Library

- Fill your home with music for both active and passive listening
- Spend time with a composer or musician
 - Who are they?
 - What did they face?
 - What time of history did they live?
 - How did they go against the norm?
 - What did they contribute?

Engage Your Library

- Spend time with a musical style
 - Who is drawn to it
 - How did it develop
 - What are it's roots
 - What does it communicate

Engage Your Library

- Spend time with a musical era
 - What did the music communicate about the time
 - What ideas did it move forward
 - Who pushed new ideas forward
 - How did new developments affect the music
 - Instruments
 - Ideas in music theory
 - How did it draw from past music
 - How did it leave the past

What About Private Lessons

Developmental Stages

- Learning methods change with the age
- For younger children
 - Music & movement
 - Aural approaches
 - Foundation building
 - Popular methodologies--Kindermusik, Suzuki, Orff
- Traditional private instrumental lessons are best to begin around age 8
- Formal voice should begin no earlier than age 12
- Benefits of a piano foundation

Choosing A Teacher

- Training
 - Must have experience playing and teaching to a higher level than your child is right now
 - Remember that training does not automatically make a person a good teacher
 - Avoid generalists who seem to teach everything
- Personality
 - Find a fit for each child. This may mean different teachers for each child
 - Teachable as well as knowledgeable
 - Seeks the best for their students
 - Excited about teaching

Motivation Issues

- Intrinsic vs. extrinsic
 - *Drive: The Surprising Truth about What Motivates Us* by Daniel Pink
- Wrong Instrument
- Too much pressure
- No goals
- Pushing things before they are ready
- Beating a dead horse on a piece of music
- Jr. High/Middle School

Practicing Woes

- **Getting them to practice**
 - Avoid extrinsic rewards
 - Avoid power struggles
 - Don't look at the behavior. Look at the reason for it
 - Make it an assumption
 - Make it part of the daily routine

• How to practice

- Break up practice time
 - Several short sessions of focused energy is better than a single large block
- Make it relevant
 - Find music that excites them and mix it with music that challenges them
 - Help them understand the whole of the piece

- Practice small sections of music
 - To keep focused
 - To build muscle memory
 - To make it automatic
- Don't start over every time you make a mistake
- Don't practice mistakes
- Look for patterns that are repeated
- Remember that if you can sing it you can play it

Conclusion

- You can do this
- Remember to take small steps
- Break free from faulty assumptions
- Learn as your kids learn
- Create a musical atmosphere in the home
- Seek out opportunities for musical growth outside the home