

# YOUNG CHILD CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

Parents, we are looking forward to a great Spring Semester! To ensure a positive learning experience for each child we have put the following guidelines in place.

## **1. Basic Classroom Expectations**

I love the pressure free learning environment of the Kindermusik Classroom! Yes! While we most likely have a freer learning environment than your child may have at school — we'll be introducing a few clearly stated classroom expectations this semester. Your reinforcement of our 'Classroom Learning Attitudes' will ensure that your child and the other children will have an optimum learning experience.

### **Respect!**

**My responses to teacher will always show that I respect her.**

**I will show my classmates that I respect each of them with *my actions* and with *my words*.**

### **Kindness!**

**I care about my classmates! I will always remember to be kind!**

### **Support!**

**I can learn! You can learn! We'll have fun learning together!**

### **Freedom to Learn!**

**I am free to try because my classmates are always respectful, kind and supportive!**

**And they are free to try too!**

### **Parental Reinforcement:**

Your support and reinforcement of our new Classroom Learning Attitudes is essential – and very much appreciated. If a child repeatedly refuses to honor *any* of our Classroom Learning Attitudes, he or she may be asked to sit out the class until Sharing Time, at which time you and your child may return to class. It is very important that you do not leave if your child is asked to sit out some of class with you. It's important that he or she know they'll be returning and that they will have an opportunity to catch up on what has been missed. During any potential 'sit out' times, please require your child to do just that. Sit and wait. Hopefully, it will prove to him or her very quickly that it is far more enjoyable to stay with us in class.

## **2. Hungry Kids Just Can't Concentrate!**

I know that all of you are very busy and you are sincerely striving to include KM in your child's life. I do appreciate that you get your kids to class— however – a lot of times they are very, very hungry when they come. (I've actually heard tummies growl in class...sigh.) If it isn't possible for your child to eat dinner before class, we ask that you consistently provide him or her with a *nutritious* (not too sugary please!) snack ahead of time – even if it means eating in the car! Sorry dads. A quick serving of milk with another protein such as string cheese; nuts or peanut butter, with a few crackers will make an incredible difference in your child's ability to absorb and retain information –plus he'll simply have a far more enjoyable time.

**Don't have time for that big of a snack sometimes?** Then – provide an apple or slice of bread with or without peanut butter, or a baggie of dry cereal, prepackaged crackers and cheese, or meal bars. Perhaps keep some prepackage options in your car that you know your child will eat.

**No time at all for a snack?** Then try providing your child with a serving of milk right before class – from a drive-through restaurant. I have come to think of milk as a 'food' all by itself and it will help to get your child's mind on what we are doing, rather than on his growling tummy.

**Please Note:** This is very important to me as a teacher and as a mom because we are asking a lot of young children in class at mealtime. While it isn't ideal, I'd rather your child be a few minutes late if it means he'll be coming with a small snack in his tummy. Also, if I think a child is simply too hungry to concentrate, I may ask you to take them to get a bite and then return them to the remainder of class. (There are many eating options very near us.)

## **3. Class & Sharing Time Suggestions / Sibling Sitter**

At this time, I will only need one parent in the classroom during YC2 when it is not sharing time. Julie Woormer is a teacher-in-training with me and she will be in class with us most weeks. Lydia has also agreed to work along side of me during the YC2 class. We are in good shape!

At Sharing Time, time is so very limited! Please be ready *any time after 20-30 minutes into class* so that when you are called in for S-Time – you can enter our classroom very promptly. Please come in *very quietly* and take a seat behind your child, unless otherwise directed. If your child doesn't already have his / her class notebook out, please get it before you sit down. Since space is an issue in our classroom we ask that when two parents come to class with their child, that one remain in the parent room during S-Time. Feel free to alternate which parent attends S-Time if you wish. ☺

**Your YC Student Really Needs Your Undivided Attention at Sharing Time!** As you know, it will provide a far richer learning experience for all our YC students when the **siblings of all ages-- for both YC classes** wait in the parent room or remain at home. This will also provide you the opportunity to focus on your YC student as we share with you the exciting things that we've covered today and the homework assignment.

Lydia has agreed to stay in the parent room with siblings *during the 5-6:00 class*, at no charge. If you absolutely must bring siblings to the studio we understand but ask that you prepare them ahead of time and help them to understand that they'll all be waiting –'playing'– in the parent room with Miss Lydia *from now on* when you go into S-Time. Lydia is super with kids – but of course you are more than welcome to bring your own sitter if you prefer. Unfortunately we are unable to offer a sitter during YC other than the 5:00 class. If your children are unable or unwilling to stay in the parent room during YC 4 class without a sitter, we ask please that you arrange to leave them home or bring along the other parent for S-Time. Perhaps you could have the other parent or a grandparent or a sitter meet you at the studio for approximately 30 minutes each week. I will be glad to provide you with names and numbers of potential sitters as well so you can give your YC student your full attention for just a few minutes each week. Thank you for your understanding.

#### **4. Class Materials**

After several years of teaching YC1, YC2, YC3, and YC4 I have given it and created a binder for the YC class materials! I am hoping that this will keep things far more organized for you and for myself. I am also hoping that it will make homework follow-through more manageable and that you'll be able to follow along more easily with the great material we are learning in the classroom over the course of the semester.

#### **Child's Materials Binder Must Come Back Each Week**

Your child's notebook contains 95% of the materials he'll use in class and he may also need them at home. It is very likely that he will not have what he needs in any given class without his binder and I will not have extras available. I will distribute a few more things from their kits from time to time and they are to be placed in the plastic game bag in the front of your child's binder where you can readily access them for use at home with your child.

#### **Your Child's YC Binder is Special! Help Him or Her to Personalize It!**

Thank you for keeping your child's YC materials away from younger siblings, as there are things in the game bag that could potentially chock them and the mallets are also very dangerous for young sibs. You are welcome to look through the sections and discuss the pictures if you'd like, encouraging a sense of anticipation for what is to come. Feel free to add notes to the weekly sections for your own use. You are welcome to journal with your child about what they liked or learned in class that week; maybe research further the composer or instruments that what we've covered in class and place it in the weekly sections. You are even welcome to take pictures at S-Time for your child's class book -- if you can do it without creating a disturbance. ☺

#### **Sections**

Please do not allow your child to snap open the notebook and take things out of it. Please do not allow him / her to work ahead as their full understanding of what is required will not be in place ahead of time and I don't have extras. Each binder is divided into sections marked 1-15 representing the weeks of our 15-week semester.

The Young Child program, as you know, offers a 4-semester curriculum, each semester continuing from the last. Your small YC 2 and YC 4 weekly take home cards are already in the appropriate weekly sections. YC2 begins at lesson 16 following the last lesson of YC 1, lesson 15. Section / Week 1 for YC2 will have the card for lesson 16 in it and so on. YC4 begins with lesson 46 and this card will be in the section marked 1, for week 1.

#### **Calendar**

To confirm which week we are in, consult the week-to-week calendar found in the very front of your child's binder/notebook. This calendar will also be a great resource for knowing where our studio breaks fall. It will also tell you when the Studio Recital & Family Celebration is scheduled and other important events that you'll want to plan for this semester. You can always find that and more info on our website [www.purplepossibilities.com](http://www.purplepossibilities.com) too and posted at the studio on the BIG calendars!

#### **Homework**

To make sure the learning is solid in your child's mind, he or she may have homework – usually requiring only minutes each week. During S-Time, I will purpose more to help parents to know more clearly what their child needs to do each week and this will be far easier to do with the sibs playing in the parent room. If there is a homework assignment it will be on the small card already in the weekly section of his binder. If the assignment is not clear – ask during Sharing Time. If I don't have time right then to answer – as I have may have another class right after yours – please email me and I'll be delighted to answer your questions.

#### **Bring Your Child's Glock and Mallets / Recorders Weekly**

I have very limited resources of extra mallets and such, and I would feel very badly if a child couldn't participate in class because he / she came without her mallets, glock, or recorder in YC4. You'll only need to bring the dulcimer to YC4 when asked to.

#### **Glock / Mallet Care**

**Please use a permanent marker to put your child's name on the inside of his / her glock and on the mallets too before the next class, if you haven't already done so.** Make sure to remind your child to get the mallet heads into the 'pillows' on the sides of the glock when he or she is finished practicing. Failure to get them all the way into the 'pillows' will result in a warped mallet stick – and your child will get frustrated when it's just not hitting the glock where he's aiming!

#### **5. When You and Your Child Arrive at Kindermusik class**

Feel free to come early to give your child a chance to eat his snack in the parent room as I have cleared the table in that room now. Once the previous class is dismissed, you may enter the classroom with your child, placing his shoes on shoe rack first. Please read classroom board to see if I need your child's notebook out of the bag for use during class that week. If so place his notebook under his tray (trays are now named) with his glock on top. Leave glock box in bag and hang bag behind classroom door. **Please do not bring in or leave violins, coats, school bags, shoes, purses, etc., in the classroom when your child arrives or during S-Time.**

#### **6. Parental Understanding**

Thank you for being such a great group of parents! We all care about each other's kids and it shows! I also thank you for understanding that this is a supertime class – meaning the children are quite tired, and probably hungry. Obviously my behavioral expectations have to be different for a class at this time of day than they would be if it were earlier in the day and I will purpose to keep it enjoyable for them! Thank you for continuing to work together with me! We are not only empowering these children with musical learning, but together we are helping them to learn how to learn at less than optimum times. We are encouraging them to discovering how to learn together in an actively supportive way and how to truly come to love learning for the sake of knowing!

Thank you for sharing your children with me! I continue to learn week to week from each one of them and it truly delights me! **Deb / MzzzB**