

UNT College of Music Education | Early Childhood Music Welcome Packet Fall 2017

Thank you for showing an interest in the Early Childhood Music Program at the University of North Texas. Your registration is confirmed for **Fall 2017**. If you are new to the program, welcome! If you are a continuing music maker from previous semesters, welcome back! Please see detailed info relating to our program below.

Location

All classes are conducted in the Music Annex in Room 115. The Music Annex is located on the corner of Highland St. and Ave. C (next to the College of Music building).

Contact Info

Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Kateri Lavacek
Assistant Director EC Music Teacher
317.213.3763
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Schedule & Calendar

The Early Childhood Music program consists of two **10-week sessions**, a Friday session and a Saturday session.

Friday Sessions: Friday, September 8 – Friday, November 10

Saturday Sessions: Saturday, September 9 – Saturday, November 11

Friday 5-Week Session	Saturday 5-Week Session
Infant (birth-24ms) 9:30 – 10:00 Toddlers (2-4yrs) 10:10 – 10:50	Infant (birth-24ms) 8:30 – 9:00 Infant (birth-24ms) 9:10 – 9:40 Toddlers (2-4yrs) 9:50 – 10:30 Multi Age (birth-5yrs) 10:40 – 11:20 Preschool (3-5yrs) 11:30 – 12:10

Fees & Refund Policy

All registration is done online. **The cost for Infant classes is \$150. All other classes are \$170.** A 50% discount is applied to any family that registers 2 or more children. **Please contact Kateri Lavacek to receive a discount code BEFORE registering your children.**

Class size determines whether a class will “make” and how many assistants may have the opportunity to experience the program. Sometimes, extenuating circumstances occur after registering and paying for the program. Under extenuating circumstances, refunds can be requested either before the first class or if only one (1) class has been attended. No refunds can be granted after attending two (2) or more classes.

Attendance Policy

If you are absent, you have the option to make-up the class by attending another. Please contact us so we know when to expect you. We also require that all children have a guardian with them in class.

Media Release

UNT will occasionally have photos or video taken during class. We have asked that you all sign a media release form (signed during online registration). However, we will never post a photo with any names unless we get direct permission from you.

Parking

Parking is recommended in Lot 25 across the street from the Music Annex and also at the corner of Ave C and Highland **for Fridays**, and then Lots 26 and 4 **for Saturdays**.

- On **Fridays** as UNT classes are in session, you will have to pay for the lot as a Visitor. The cost is \$2/hour and is metered by a central kiosk.
- On **Saturdays** Lot 25 is still accessible, but Lots 26 and 4 (across Ave C from the Music Annex) will be **free** to use under the performance clause the College of Music holds with Parking & Transportation Services. Lot 26 is accessed from Highland Street, and Lot 4 is accessed from Chestnut Street.

More info can be found at <http://musiced.music.unt.edu/ecmusic/contact>. Please keep in mind that periodically there will be university events that may create parking difficulties. You can visit <http://calendar.unt.edu/>.

EC Music Philosophies

Music is learned in much the same way that language is learned. Just as children learn to speak from being in a rich, language-filled environment, children become musical through exposure to a rich, music-filled environment. Like language acquisition, musical development occurs sequentially, moving through stages of listening, vocal exploration, and music babble, which eventually lead to beat competency and accurate singing.

The UNT Early Childhood Music Program is designed to create a rich musical environment for children. Some children will be active participants, while others will prefer to watch and absorb. Although classes will differ according to the age levels and readiness of the children, all classes will include songs, chants, movement, and instrument exploration. Many of the songs and chants performed in class will be without words, because we want the children to focus on the musical content rather than their natural tendency to focus on words.

FAQs

1. Why do you do so many songs and chants without words?

The goal of the early Childhood Music Program is to maximize children's musical learning opportunities. Some theories suggest that when songs and chants are presented with words, children tend to focus on the text rather than the musical content. Therefore, we perform many songs and chants without words so that the children can focus on tonal and rhythmic characteristics.

2. Why don't you use more instruments?

At the early stage of a child's musical development, fine motor coordination to play many of the instruments is not yet developed. Also, children seem to respond to the elements of music more quickly when they are presented by the human voice. Human interaction is critically important to child development. Throughout the semester, however, we include some playing of instruments for the children to explore different sounds.

3. I am worried that my child is not participating in class. What should I do?

Not to worry! Your child will participate when he or she is ready. In the meantime, know that there are some children who learn best from watching and silently absorbing what we do in class. Observing rather than participating is perfectly normal and is not indicative of a child's interest or talent. We do not judge children on the basis of how they perform for us in class. There will be some children who wander around during class. You can gently encourage your child to join the group, but please do not force them. Wandering is fine! The teacher will not intervene unless the child is interfering with learning.

4. Why won't my child sing with me?

Until children are developmentally ready, they will not be able to coordinate their singing with that of an adult. We sing *for* the children and then hope that they will experiment with what they have heard at their own pace and in their own time. As the children mature musically, they will perform with us when they are ready.

5. What should I do during class and at home?

Parents should participate in class. If the teacher moves to a song in a certain way, imitate the movement. As you get to know some of the songs, sing along! Please do not give the children food, drink, or toys during class. This tends to distract the other children. Anything of this nature should be kept for before or after class.

A CD of the semester's repertoire will be provided. Your child will love the CD and will learn more as a result. If you can sing the songs or perform the chants that we do during class, please do so during the week. Create as rich a musical environment as possible for your child at home.