

# HOW MUSIC EDUCATION BENEFITS CHILDREN

## **Music training helps brains develop faster.**

A five-year University of Southern California study finds significant differences between kids who learned to play instruments and those who didn't. Music instruction appears to accelerate brain development in young children, particularly in the areas of the brain responsible for processing sound, language development, speech perception, and reading skills.

## **Music creates a strong bond.**

One study in New Jersey with parents and children age 0-7 who had been separated due to abuse and neglect found the Music Together component of the reunification process promoted positive parenting practices and increased parents' understanding of child development.

## **Music develops pre-language communication.**

Children are biologically prepared to process musical pitch and rhythm, which is why caregivers around the world often communicate with infants using songs or speech entailing song-like characteristics. This suggests music might be one of the earliest developing and most accessible forms of interpersonal communication.

In addition, group-based music lessons may enhance children's language skills and possibly executive functions.

## **Music support social development.**

A study published by Developmental Science compared active music-making classes and passive exposure to music among infants. Children in participatory classes not only learned more about music but also showed greater development of pre-language communication and social behaviors.



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