



CURRICULUM FOCUS: Music and Movement



The teachers at R-LDCC are sure to incorporate music and movement activities into our **daily** activities at the Center, because we know this type of experience:

- ♪ **Fosters self-expression!** Children express emotions, recognize the types of music they like best and experiment with body movements.
- ♪ **Develops motor skills!** Children become conscious of what their bodies can do. They practice hopping, skipping, jumping, swinging and marching. Small muscle control is developed with fingerplays and rhythm instruments.
- ♪ **Enhances listening skills!** Children learn to distinguish different sounds, rhythms, tempos, volume, etc. These are all important skill for future reading success.
- ♪ **Promotes social skills!** Music and movement are often group experiences where children learn to cooperate and take turns.
- ♪ **Builds self-esteem!** Children feel successful and competent when engaged in familiar songs and movement activities.
- ♪ **Broadens horizons!** We frequently expose children to different styles of music. It is not unusual to hear songs sung in Chinese, Spanish or Hebrew while children are busily engaged. During naptime they might relax to Celtic, African, Chinese, Latin or Jewish lullabies, or classical compositions by Handel, Beethoven or Bach. If you have music or lullabies in additional languages, please let us borrow them! We're also always looking for moms, dad, siblings, grandparents (aunts, uncles, cousins, family friends...) who could visit to play their musical instruments.
- ♪ **Is lots of fun!** Ask your child to teach you his favorite songs and sing them together often!

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- Songs can be used to teach new concepts and to introduce new vocabulary.
- Songs give children the opportunity to explore adult roles. Children playing with dolls in a dramatic play area will sing lullabies to their dolls or hum while cleaning, emulating what they have seen their parents do.
- Movement to music develops children's awareness of their bodies and what they can do. It can also help to develop feelings of self-confidence and fine motor skills.
- Listening to music can help teach children about the basic properties of music: loud, soft, fast tempo, slow tempo, and pitch. It can also lead to further creative expression.



Weather permitting, we are planning a musical parade with rhythm instruments on Livingston Campus, today, Monday, April 24, at 3:30 PM.