



Music at heart

more than just music lessons

Why is music important for babies?

Many people look upon a newborn child as 'helpless', capable of little more than crying, feeding and sleeping. They take little interest until s/he begins to talk and walk, and think that all babies do is spend the day lying around, waiting until they are old enough to do something more interesting.

Thanks to scientific research, we know this to be a very misguided view: the infant brain feeds on experience and stimulation, and the earlier music is introduced, the more potential a child has for learning.

Your baby is born with music at heart

- in the womb, hearing is the first of the five senses to come alive
- before birth, a baby has an incredible array of musical abilities: sensitivity to pitch, rhythm and sound quality
- the foetus feels the pulse of the mother's heart-beat and recognises the sound of her voice
- the highest level of musical aptitude occurs immediately after birth

Music is the tool we use to pick up language skills

- babies express themselves musically with their cooing and babbling
- parents talk to them using sing-song voices
- talking and singing to a baby speeds up the learning of new words

Moving to music is a primal instinct that lies at the heart of our development

- music moves us and makes us want to move
- music helps to shape the brain
- physical movement to music stimulates mental development
- singing and dancing with your baby is one of the best things you can do to help wire the neural circuits in the brain which will influence all future development

Music education should begin "nine months before the birth of the mother"
(Zoltan Kodaly)