

## ESM Program

This program is designed to make the initial stages of learning an instrument easier by providing an introduction to the skills required in the first year or two of studying a string instrument. The class involves participation in a broad range of musical activities and games. It focuses on age appropriate skills that will be useful for later instrumental study. These include general pulse, rhythm, pitch and volume recognition, arm, hand & finger exercises for coordination, singing, memory games and activities, bow hold and bowing skills, recognition of common musical rhythms and early Suzuki repertoire.

We encourage you to listen to the violin and cello CDs as often as possible so that your child becomes familiar with the music and will feel confident participating in the class.

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*“During the early childhood years, birth through age 5, every moment is an opportunity for children to learn more about the world around them, to practise social skills, and to gain critical thinking skills and knowledge. Early childhood experiences lay the foundation for all later learning and determine whether or not children succeed in school and later life. If we care about our children, then we must ensure that all young children enjoy an early childhood that prepares them to take full advantage of their educational opportunities and to become effective citizens, capable workers, and loving parents of the next generation”.*

*(Dorothy & Sharon Jones, Suzuki ECE, London ON)*

## HEADSTART

*Recognizing the importance of early childhood education,*

*Etobicoke Suzuki Music offers a*

## HEADSTART

*pre-instrumental program  
for young children (2 – 4 yrs)  
and their caregivers.*

*Following the philosophy of  
Talent Education developed by  
Dr. Shinichi Suzuki in Japan, the  
class is based on imitation, repetition,  
praise, encouragement and parental  
involvement. It uses songs, rhymes,  
and activities that parent and child  
can do together to develop the young  
child’s focus, language skills, musical  
ear, physical co-ordination, social  
skills and self-confidence.*

*Parents will be introduced to the  
Suzuki philosophy of pre-school  
education, and shown how to observe  
their child’s development and enjoy  
music together at home.*

**ESM** also offers instruction in **violin** and **cello** for children. Parents interested in **ESM’s program** and the **Suzuki method** are invited to observe classes.

For more information contact **ESM** at:  
416-239-4637  
[info@essm.ca](mailto:info@essm.ca) [www.essm.ca](http://www.essm.ca)

## *Etobicoke Suzuki Music*

## HEADSTART

*pre-instrumental program*

*(2 – 4 years)*



*“In all the seeds of today  
are all the flowers of tomorrow”*

*Anonymous*

## What is Talent Education?

The philosophy of *Talent Education* was developed in the 1940's by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, the great Japanese music educator. The Suzuki method, which today has become an international movement, is based on respect for each child as a unique human being. Dr. Suzuki said “*talent is not inherited, and the potential of every child is unlimited*”.

Dr. Suzuki noted that children all over the world learn to speak their mother tongue with ease, no matter how complicated it might be. They learn by listening to and then imitating their parents and other people around them. Thus, very young children acquire huge, complex vocabularies seemingly without effort.

Dr. Suzuki discovered that the characteristics of natural language learning could be applied to the learning of music:

- ♪ daily listening followed by imitation
- ♪ constant repetition
- ♪ praise and encouragement
- ♪ positive learning environment
- ♪ parental involvement

Children are capable of developing their musical abilities as well as they develop their linguistic and other abilities.

Dr. Suzuki's goal for very young children was not to produce great musicians, but to prepare the best possible environment for them, to nurture and develop their abilities so that they might grow to become noble human beings.

In addition to musical skills and enjoyment, the Suzuki student will develop memory, co-ordination, careful observation, determination to try difficult things, pride in accomplishment, sensitivity toward others, confidence and self-esteem.

## Music and Young Children

Suzuki Early Childhood Education (Suzuki ECE) aims to build on the child's natural delight in learning and to develop the abilities and natural potential of each child. The fundamental principle of the Suzuki approach is that each child is born with the potential to develop to a high level and become a happy human and a whole, integrated person.

The Suzuki ECE curriculum is based on the following concepts:

- ♪ every child can learn
- ♪ ability develops early
- ♪ environment nurtures growth
- ♪ children learn from one another
- ♪ success breeds success
- ♪ encouragement is essential
- ♪ parental involvement is critical

Skills and information are introduced through songs, rhymes, games and other enjoyable activities in a way that helps to develop the young child's focus, language, musical ear, physical co-ordination, social skills, self confidence and preparation for starting a string instrument.

## Parental Involvement

A key to the Suzuki approach is parental involvement. Parents are the cultivators, the ones responsible for raising their children with love. Thus, the program for Suzuki ECE involves the parent in all activities as the child's first and most important teacher. Parents learn to observe their children carefully and to celebrate even the smallest steps in learning.

A parent/teacher partnership is developed to provide an enriched natural environment so that parent and child can grow together through the mutual joy of learning.

## At What Age Should Education Begin?

Dr. Suzuki emphasized that the education of children should begin at a very young age. He maintained that the infant/toddler period is a crucial time in which everything in the environment is effortlessly absorbed.

*“From the day of birth, the body gradually grows and the child adapts to his environment. When cultivating plants, it is obvious that a seedling will wither if it is assumed that no water, sunshine, or fertilizer should be given to the plant until a specific time, and then it is flooded with all three. Humans also exist within the realm of nature”.* Dr. Suzuki considered children to be like seedlings, and “*...unless the seedlings are well cared for, beautiful flowers cannot be expected*”.

*Dr. Shinichi Suzuki*

Recent research supports Dr. Suzuki's observations and belief in the potential of young children and the importance of nurturing that potential at an early age. Scientists are finding that an enriched, nurturing environment with opportunities for exploration and learning contributes to cognitive and emotional development in young children and actually changes the growth of the brain. It has also been demonstrated that there are ‘windows of opportunity’ for much of this learning, some of them at very young ages. Many repetitions in learning anything (as in language learning) strengthen brain growth, improving ability in other activities and thought processes.

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*“...childhood is a particularly crucial time for the brain because of the neural sculpting that goes on; for many of our abilities, tendencies, talents, and reactions, those that get “hardwired” in childhood become the collective mental platform upon which we stand and grow for the rest of our lives”.*

*(Magic Trees of the Mind, M. Diamond & J. Hopson  
Plume: Penguin Putnam Inc. 1999:p57)*