

Return to In Person Learning with First Notes - Music Together

As we prepare to return to in person learning, there are some things that you should be aware of before registering or coming to the first class.

First and foremost, it is important that we all observe the regulations and class policies that are in place for disease mitigation. If you or your child cannot wear a mask while in class, please register for one of the online options. Understand that, even though we are doing everything possible to avoid infection, there is no way to make this activity risk free, and you are participating in this activity with that knowledge.

Class size is limited, which has implications for your decision making.

- Only one adult per child may attend class, preferably the same adult each week.
- No unregistered siblings are allowed to attend.
- No guests of any kind. This includes visiting grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins.
- Any necessary makeup classes must be scheduled in an online class. Each class will be treated as a learning “pod,” so keeping each group to the same members each class is essential.

For the outdoor classes, we will have class unless it is raining steadily.

- In case of rain, we'll move to zoom.
- The decision to move the class online will be made 90 minutes before class time.
- If it's chilly or sprinkling, we'll have class, so plan to dress appropriately.
- Don't forget sunscreen for your kiddos!

Our class routines will change in order for us to be consistent with the CDC recommendations for early childhood learning.

- Masks for everyone age 2 and up.
- I'll check in with each family on arrival to ask the now standard covid screening questions.
- Please bring hand sanitizer and kleenex with you for your family to use as you arrive and during class as necessary.
- Each family needs a place to call their own in class (both indoor and outdoor), so you'll need to bring a beach blanket, yoga mat, or moisture resistant outdoor blanket (for the outdoor classes) to sit on.
- Before class, I will put out vinyl dots to show you the middle of your family spot. I'll space these dots 8 feet apart.
- For our indoor classes, keep all shoes on until you're on your blanket. It's up to each family to decide on shoes on or off.

- Because the safety recommendations call for no shared “stuff,” each family will bring instruments to use during class.
- Please be aware of social distancing on your way in and out.
- In the “Goodbye” song, we’ll all stand and use the words we’ve been singing online: instead of “and a hug or a handshake for all of your friends,” we’ll continue to sing “send a wave, blow a kiss to all of your friends.” As hard as it will be for all of us (and, I really mean me), we’ll resist hugging as we sing this song.

The instruments that we’ll use in class are shakers, sticks, scarves, and something for a playalong (playalong will be every few weeks). Don’t go overboard - shakers that you make are every bit as good as ones you buy, and wooden spoons or train tracks are fabulous sticks. A tea towel is a great scarf. Several people have asked for links to purchase instruments, so that’s why I’m including them.

If you’re looking to purchase instruments, these are a few suggestions:

https://www.musictogether.com/store/gifts_toddlers

<https://www.musictogether.com/store/>

<https://www.westmusic.com/kids-movement/under-age-3/?count=10>

<https://www.westmusic.com/kids-movement/kids-percussion/kids-percussion-packages/west-music-personal-elementary-music-kit-g-b-for-k-205965?returnurl=%2fkids-movement%2fkids-percussion%2fkids-percussion-packages%2f>

For blankets:

This is the one that I’ve purchased - says it’s moisture repellent, and it’s a good price. I’ll use it in both our indoor and outdoor locations.

<https://www.sierra.com/pacific-crest-quilted-indoor-outdoor-throw-blanket-50x60-reversible-plum-peel~p~34ctr/?filterString=s~outdoor-blankets%2F>

Or, this one looks great:

https://www.llbean.com/llb/shop/57230?page=waterproof-outdoor-blanket&bc=&feat=outdoor%20blanket-SR0&csp=a&attrValue_0=Teal%20Blue&searchTerm=outdoor%20blanket&pos=1

It's significantly more expensive, might be a good option if you're doing a lot of outdoor activities. It's also bigger, which might be good, or not - depending on your family size and activity level.

Alternatively, a shower curtain liner from the dollar store or a tarp underneath your favorite beach towel would do the trick.