



Early Childhood Programs

2008 - 2009

To enroll, call 816-235-2741, sign up online, or email music-ce@umkc.edu.
http://conservatory.umkc.edu/community_academy/preparatory.aspx

How to Determine if Your Child is Ready for Lessons: Is My Child Ready for Private Lessons?

In order to progress creatively in private applied lessons, a child must be ready to accept rules, guidelines and suggestions of the teacher. Will the child still be interested and not frustrated when the teacher asks the child to play a certain way, or hold his hand in a certain position? Additional considerations include fine motor control as well as the maturity and attention span necessary for daily, individual practice. Will the child focus for 15 – 25 minutes on a series of directed tasks? A child with a strong foundation in movement, vocal development and listening is more likely to be successful and remain motivated than a child without. All of these skills are encouraged in Kindermusik classes. Consideration needs to be given to the importance of skill building and motivation over a long period of time rather than how early one starts. Perhaps Kindermusik classes (going up to age 7), Roo Singers (ages 5 – 8), or Piano Ready Class (ages 4 – 5) is a more beneficial route for some children. To ensure outcome oriented commitment, generally most children are not ready for lessons until the age of three and a half.

Checklist for Child Readiness:

- Interest
- Fine motor control: ability to coordinate hands independently, eye-hand coordination, ability to hold a pencil
- Ability to listen and follow directions
- Attention span and ability to focus in 15 – 25 minute increments on a series of directed tasks
- Ability to replicate pitch and rhythm and beginning to match pitches consistently
- Developing ability to keep a steady beat
- Ability to distinguish between high and low
- Pre-reading skills (left to right) and number recognition
- Understands concept of practice and proper handling of an instrument
- Basic symbolic recognition

Checklist for Parent Readiness:

- Commitment to help practice
- Has or is prepared to purchase instrument for the home

Feel free to call 816-235-2741 or email music-ce@umkc.edu to set up an appointment for a professional assessment with the Community Music and Dance Academy Director, Mara Gibson, or Assistant Director, Cheryl Melfi.

Contact List for More Information:

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