

PLAYful Musical Environments that Foster Learning:

Listening, Making, and Moving to Music
in Early Education Settings

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In Language

Conversation - easy to create and improvise
even by 3 years old!

In Music ?

Most symphony players do
not create or improvise.

Stages of Music Development

(audio)

- Absorption - a 3-month old just listening
- Random Responses - a 5-month old kicking
- Purposeful Responses - eye contact, engaging
- Imitation - not recognizing differences yet
- Assimilation - recognizing differences and correcting using the breath and movement
- Absorption never stops. [Older kids listening live on stage next to Baltimore Symphony players.]

Writing

Reading

Improvise/Create

Thinking/Speaking

**Listening
Vocabulary**

Toddler twins chatting
(audio)

Creativity/Improvisation

Diego's Melody

Diego (9 years old)

$\text{♩} = 108$

10

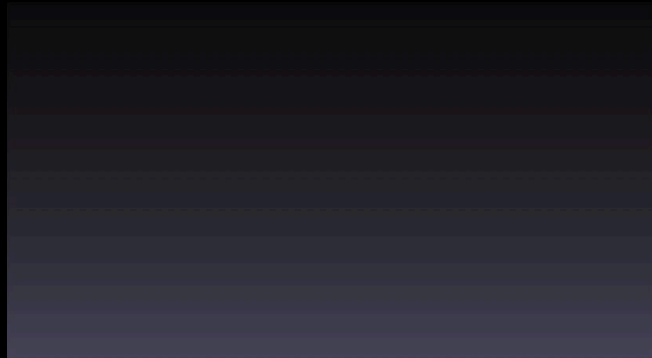
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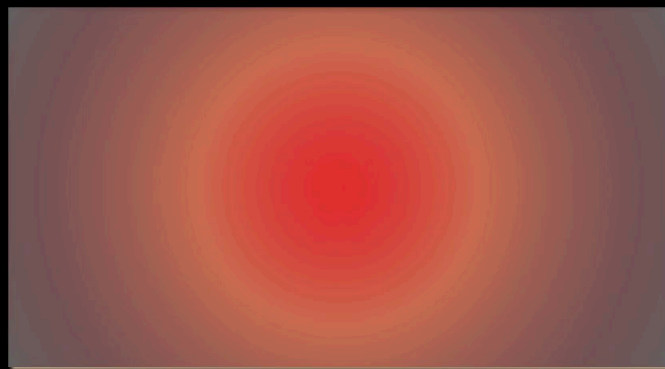
Taste



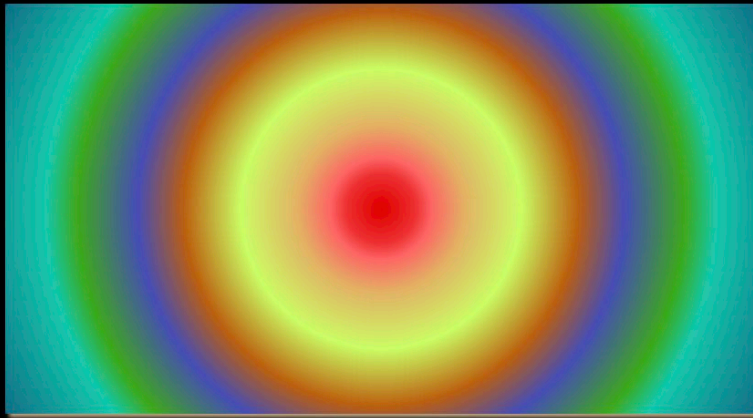
Light



Touch



Sound



Musical “diet”: an analogy

Chicken wings or salmon souffle?

Why not both?

And then add Thai food,

chocolate covered ants,

and sushi, too!

Everything you need to know about music:

Tones

Rhythm

Melody

Harmony

Expression

Timbre

Tonal Content and Context

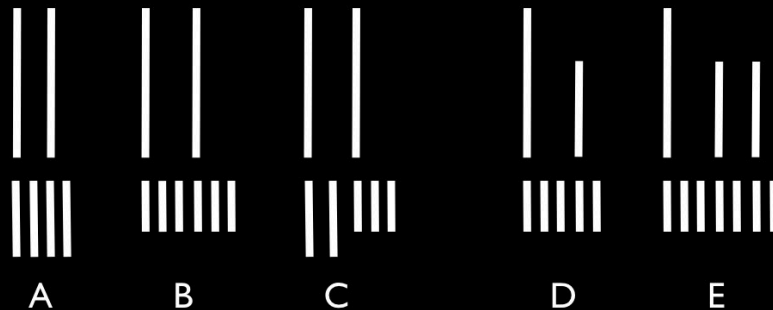
Melodies are made up of tones and rhythms. Tones need a place to end called a “resting tone.” This provides context.

Once understood in the voice and ear, the resting tones can be named:

DO, RE, MI, FA, SO, LA, LA, TI

Rhythm Content and Context

Rhythms make sense when there are two kinds of beats: BIG beats and little beats. This provides a context for rhythms.



The biggest pieces missing
in early childhood music education:

- one-on-one interactions
- musical conversations
- spontaneous music making
with no agenda but to PLAY

MUSICALLY

The biggest piece to try to eliminate during music playtime?

TALKING

Talking distracts the child's aural learning brain from the musical components.

Talking and noise short-circuit music learning.

Takeaways:

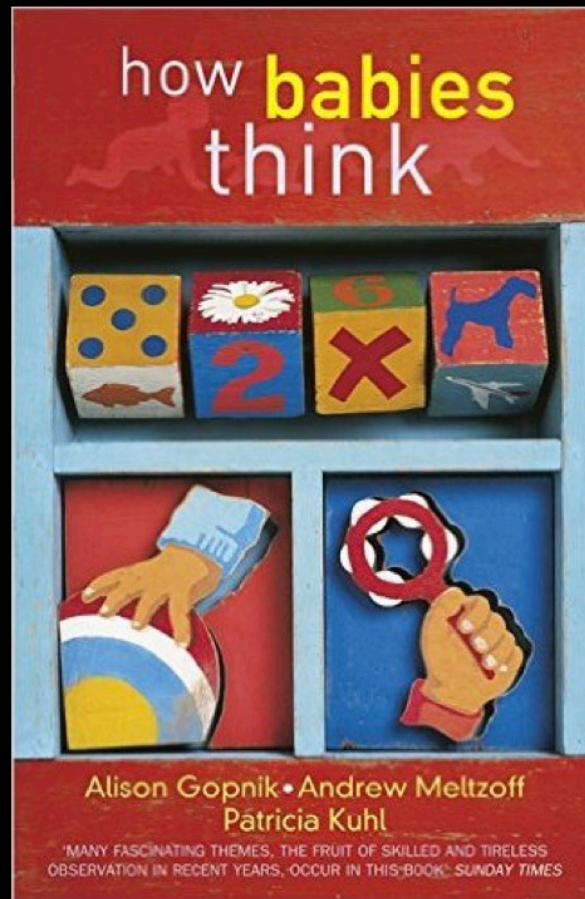
- Just be musically playful with children —and with yourselves too. Spontaneously.
- Interact individually with children— tonally and rhythmically.
- Play great music and be expressive.
- For babies and toddlers, get into their world. Don't always be trying to bring them into yours.
- Sing, dance, play, be happy, and just have fun!

This vision is a tall order, but

*Remember, it's for the children.

*Take it one small musical interaction at a time.

*When in doubt, just remember to sing, chant, move, and dance!



Thank you!

Please be in touch.

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Music to move to: playlists on Spotify
www.bit.ly/DrEric1
www.bit.ly/DrEric2, 3, 4, 5