



## What are the developmental benefits of a good music & singing class like Music Bugs?

### **LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

Singing songs is a fantastic way to boost early language skills and encourages important elements of language development such as auditory discrimination (the ability to detect similarities and differences when listening to sounds). Singing and making music is a natural and enjoyable activity for children that they will find themselves engaging with instinctively. Traditional nursery rhymes and silly songs are firm favourites with children and should be sung and repeated frequently.

### **NUMERACY SKILLS**

Counting songs such as *Five Currant Buns* are an obvious choice as they introduce children to the concept of counting and encourage a familiarity with number names, patterns and values. According to Professor Gordon Shaw at the University of California, "Music helps children to learn maths. When children learn rhythm, they are learning ratios, fractions and proportions". Singing counting songs with children helps them to relate to their own personal experiences and to recognise numbers, patterns and sequences within their immediate environment.

### **FINE AND GROSS MOTOR CONTROL AND COORDINATION**

Babies use movement and sensory exploration to link up with their immediate environment and toddlers are biologically driven to use their bodies to develop their physical skills. Finger play rhymes, knee bouncers, balancing games, clapping games and manipulation of props and instruments also provide valuable physical experiences for children.



### **SENSORY EXPERIENCES**

As an adult, you will probably find that you tend to veer towards a preferred method of learning (for example you may be more of a 'visual' learner or an 'auditory' learner). Children are very different however and will utilise 4 main 'processes' to engage and interact with their environment. These are: Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic and Tactile. A good music class should provide children with the opportunity to be constantly seeing, hearing, touching and 'doing' – an all-round sensory experience for children.

### **CONFIDENCE, SOCIAL SKILLS AND INDEPENDENCE**

Young children often find they have little input or autonomy throughout the course of an average day. A group activity such as a music class provides them with the opportunity to start making decisions for themselves within a safe and informal environment. As they get older, they will start to notice other children in the class and begin to interact with them. Before you know it, they are learning how to make friends ready for when they start school.