



Kids Making Music

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Children of all ages enjoy making music. And little ones are no exception. Parents TV correspondent Anne Ebeling is on the scene at **apple seeds**.



At apple seeds in New York City, you're never too little to make beautiful music. apple seeds is one of hundreds of locations around the world that offers the Music Together program.

"Music Together is introducing children to music, exposing them to music," says Music Together instructor Robin Robinson. "The idea is sort of that everybody is musical, so the emphasis is really on the adult participation. We say it doesn't matter if you can't sing. Sing out. When the moms are really singing and clapping along the kids are more engaged." In Music Together, kids from birth to age four and their caretakers can get into the groove.



"I think Music Together is a great program," says Robinson. "You know I see beyond just seeing children become more musical. Besides that I see all kinds of things. I see little changes in them. I see them become, I see shy kids who when they start like they won't leave their mother. I see them sort of come out of their shell. I see them become more talkative. More brave. I see them become more independent."



Shirley Kong brings her 18 month old Allegra every week.

"We learn songs she can sing at home, you can sing in the car," says Kong. "You don't need any instruments you can just kind of do it whenever you want. It's nice."

And it's not just the little ones that benefit from an interactive music class like Music Together.



"I need music and I bet you do too," says apple seeds Music Together director Lynn Lobban.



"And I think almost everyone does. And interestingly enough a lot of the parents will come in and think they can't carry a tune and they're relieved to know that it's nothing, that it's not a deficiency in them," says Lobban. "It's probably that they did not grow up in a musical environment. I'm just as happy seeing the joy in the parents and the caregivers as I am in the little ones."

Alison Qualter Berna and Allison Schlanger opened apple seeds, an all-in-one play place for children and families after meeting in a Music Together class.

“My business partner Allison Schlanger and I met in Music Together,” says Qualter Berna. “I guess it’s about two years ago now. Two-and-a-half years ago.



When my twin girls were five months old and her twin boys were six months old. And I found it to be one of the most fantastic programs out there musically for children in terms of how a child develops both rhythmically and tonally.



It’s a fun class and you don’t even understand when it’s so fun that actually there’s a method to all that behind, there really is a musical development process happening for a baby.”

Shirley Kong says that when looking for a music class parents should seek a program in which they play a part as well.

“Definitely look for one where the parents, or even the nannies and the caretakers are really involved,” says Kong. “So you defiantly want to find the

class where people are enthusiastic and there’s a good mix of children so that there’s a really good high level of energy to the class and they have a lot of fun.”

There’s also plenty you can do at home to introduce your child to music like listening to your favorite CD and singing with your child.

You can also buy instruments like these to use at home.

