

Recent Research Involving Music Together

- **University of Southern California**

To better understand the relationships between music education and prosociality in early childhood and explore the potential role of music as a tool for developing socio-emotional skills in children, researchers from USC's Thornton School of Music are studying the effects of music education (in the form of participation in Music Together classes) on helping, sharing, and comforting behaviors in children between the ages of 3 and 4.

- **University of Minnesota**

This three-year, federally funded (IES) project had the goal of improving student learning through an innovative intervention targeting executive function skills in impoverished preschoolers, particularly those from homeless or highly mobile families. Music Together LLC collaborated with researchers to develop the curriculum adaptation used.

- **Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra/Crescendo Academy of Music, Kalamazoo MI**

This study examined the impact of *Marvelous Music!*, a program designed to build and strengthen children's musical aptitude and kindergarten readiness. Music Together classes were an integral part of the program and were shown to have a positive impact on children's social-emotional skill development, motor and pre-reading skills, music competence, and overall kindergarten readiness.

- **Total Learning Initiative/Bridge Together, Bridgeport CT**

Music Together classes were an integral part of a large-scale, federally- and state-funded project designed to bridge the learning gap for at-risk children in preschool classrooms. 2008 results affirmed that preschool classes who used the Music Together program showed statistically significant gains on the Cognitive Change, Language, and Physical Development domains of the Head Start Creative Curriculum Assessment. A new phase of the study began in 2014, exploring Music Together's impact on family engagement. Pilot results showed participation in Music Together increased parents' self-efficacy, awareness and knowledge of school preparedness, and the positive use and value of music in young children's learning.

- **University of California at Los Angeles**

The SEEDS-IT (Strategies for Enhancing Early Developmental Success – Infants and Toddlers) Program is a federally funded (NIAAA) prevention and early intervention program for children with prenatal alcohol exposure between the ages of 1-24 months and their foster parents, adoptive parents, and caregivers. Music Together is one element of this program to support children's emotional and behavioral regulation and to promote positive parent-child relationships.

- **Western Michigan University**

Western Michigan University's Department of Brain Research and Interdisciplinary Neuroscience, along with two community partner organizations, is using the Music Together program in two feasibility studies funded in part by the WK Kellogg Foundation: A mother/infant dyad study, *Achieving Academic Readiness for Infants Exposed to Opiates through Co-Regulation: Sensory Integration and the Science of Song*; and a study with preschoolers, *Keeping Promises in Kalamazoo: Achieving Health Equity for Young Children through Trauma-informed Resiliency-focused Connected Systems*.

- **State University of Buffalo**

This randomized controlled pilot study by the Division of Behavioral Medicine, Department of Pediatrics was undertaken to ascertain the effects Music Together has on infants' relative food reinforcement, which is related to obesity in preschoolers. Infants who participated in the Music Together program showed reduced food reinforcement.

For more information please contact research@musictogether.com.

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