



Developing
our children's
musical creativity

Why is music education important?

Music is a huge part of our everyday world - wherever we live - and we want to keep it that way. How exciting that we now have a vibrant global community of music creators and music makers from every genre that we can tap into and enjoy.

But how do we keep the creativity flowing in music? How do we ensure that new music keeps coming in the future?

We have to start with the very young. Sure, young children are now digital natives and very adept at listening to music on their devices, but how do we ensure that they are given the opportunity to become the music creators of the future (ie they create the music for others to enjoy) not just music consumers?

In Australia, the great majority of children do not have access to music education within their schools, and many others only receive music instruction because their parents can afford to pay for it.

This is not fair!

Music education is vital for us all and should be available for all of our children.

How can we develop musical creativity?

So how can we ensure that our children develop creativity in music?

Creativity experts tend to agree that you need to thoroughly learn the technical knowledge of a subject over a period of time before you can create the kinds of works (musical or other) that will 'change the world'.

So, we need to have a long term view of music education. We need to provide young children with the musical skills and knowledge over a number of years to give them the best chance of becoming the next Mozart or iTunes sensation. Of course along the way, children need to be given plenty of opportunity to be musically creative through improvisation and movement and have plenty of opportunities to actively listen to music.

What can we use to develop our kids' creativity?

There are many early childhood resources that can be used for music education with young children, but very few provide simple step-by-step instruction in how to teach musical skills and concepts.

FunMusic for Little Kids' teaching resources start at the very beginning, by providing teachers (or parents, carers, play group leaders) with the tools needed to teach music to young children. I have found that many early childhood educators would love to teach music but are unsure where to start or lack the confidence to try.

Instead of just playing a song and asking 3 year olds to move, many more skills and concepts can be taught through one song. *FunMusic for Little Kids* can help you do this.

Let's get started - one simple activity at a time...

There are two ways to start your children on a journey towards musical creativity:

1. Purchase the *FunMusic for Little Kids* teachers' books and accompanying CDs (Australia only – digital versions are coming): these provide a sequence of eight easy-to-use lessons which introduce age-appropriate musical skills and concepts. (Titles so far – Animals and Transport)
2. Browse through the teaching ideas on this site (a selection of short music activities which teach specific concepts/skills) and download the matching *FunMusic for Little Kids* songs from iTunes.

Music is fun for everyone!