

Musicrazy Safety and House Rules

Please understand that these exist for health and safety and also for Public Liability reasons. They help us all to have as relaxed a learning environment as possible. Also, they are based on the common sense of “How do I want my child to behave in someone else’s house?” The Musicrazy studio has a cosy feel, just like someone’s home (not like a Gym or Daycare), so you can use the music class to learn these behaviours. ACTIONS speak louder than words, especially for the under 5s, so adults must lead by example please. For example, if a parent throws an egg shaker in class, it is unreasonable to expect a child not to do the same.

Your child is your responsibility at all times. It is not the educator’s role to supervise your child in class.

NO SQUEALING OR SCREAMING: toddlers often squeal and pre-schoolers scream. It is part of their normal development, however as it is highly disruptive to the learning environment (plus it damages our ears), please take your child into the “**chill out**” room at the back of the studio if they start squealing, holding them close and calmly saying in a low voice “stop” either with direct eye contact for a confident child or from behind into their ear for the more sensitive child works just fine and once they are settled you can return to the classroom, so we can work on turning the squealing into singing.

NO THROWING: in the interest of safety please lead by example and do not throw anything to each other anywhere in the studio...we can “toss” the ball into the parachute or scarf UP in the air, roll things, tap things. It is best to never even say the T.H.R.O.W word in the studio. You don’t want to have to pay for a 12th Century Ming vase in someone’s house.....if your child throws something in class e.g. an egg shaker, please pick it up, shake it nicely in front of them and say “shake, shake, shake “ to demonstrate the appropriate and respectful use of that instrument indoors. Same for the toddler “dumping” of stuff, just pick it up and carry on shaking or rolling or tapping it, interacting positively with the child simultaneously.

NO EATING OR DRINKING IN THE CLASSROOM (water bottles excepted). Also, be aware of allergies. No sharing of snacks in the waiting room please, without the permission of the receiving child’s carer. If crumbs are dropped, please use the dust pan provided (lives in front of the fan) to clean up and put in the bin. Just one crumb can cause an anaphylactic attack or allergic reaction. Better still, only bring snacks that are nut free or save snacks until at the park etc.

NO TOYS IN THE CLASSROOM: special bear/car/blankie for rocking/cuddle time excepted, but he/she can stay in the cubicle or just “watch” the class until we do rocking. Otherwise they will be a distraction during class. Again, there may be a transition period if you are weaning your child off carrying a toy/blankie everywhere they go. Talk to the teacher if this is the case. Music class can help you with this process, as the toy is “safe” i.e. the child knows where it is, but out of sight.

NO PACIFIERS/DUMMIES: we do a lot of vocal play and singing so best to not have these in their mouths. If you are going through the transition phase, talk to the teacher and we can work with you. Music class just might help to break the dummy habit. Again, it being “safe” in the cubicle can work well too. Most babbling bubs & talking toddlers instinctively know as soon as they see us all singing that they would do better in class without the dummy, they open their mouth and it drops out. Use this opportunity to tuck it away quickly while they are engaged in something else.

WALKING FEET PLEASE and only safe **RUNNING** e.g. on the spot with carer or feet in the air as directed by the educator. Active walkers in the 15mth to 22mths stage excepted (see toddler exploration).

NO JUMPING ON THE FURNITURE: Please do not climb on the sofas in the waiting room. The chairs and sofas are provided for the adults to sit comfortably while waiting for their child to finish their class or to wait for a class to start. There are floor cushions for kiddies and a cute rug. Floor sitting is good for children as it centres their core being, in fact for all of us, that is why there are no chairs in the classroom and we all floor sit, unless someone has a bad back, is pregnant, elderly etc. Please ask if you need a chair.

TODDLER EXPLORATION: Crawling and walking babies and toddlers will naturally explore their environment. Exploring is encouraged, however please stay with your child if they wish to explore the studio before, during or after class for safety reasons. The corrugated iron wall and instrument/prop cupboard are the most enticing, so please go with your child if they wish to have a little touch or a peek inside, then direct them away back to the activity, saying encouragingly "Let's see what Jude has over here" will usually work. After a term or so, the curiosity will be away from the wall and right into the activities. **The educator will often direct you to go to your child. Please do not be offended by this; it is all to do with safety and what is right for the activity.** Other times, we may just let them all wander a bit. Again the educator will know when this is appropriate. Please respect the educator's experience, training and knowledge around this. If your child is in the 16-22 mth active walker phase, you will work hard in Kindermusik, following them everywhere. Perfectly normal, just go with it, interacting with the shaker or whatever, until they are all walked out and ready to sit. However, please do not allow your child to just wander all over the studio unsupervised, unless directed by the teacher to do so. Calling them back generally does not work until they are at least 2 years old AND language is well developed, so often you will have to fetch them back for an activity. Let them go a bit, *watching* them all the time, then bring them back. Most times there is an interesting prop or instrument or the book coming out or we are about to sing their favourite song from the CD, so most children are happy to come back.

NO HITTING...PLAY NICELY... NO BITING.....BE KIND Calm and gentle parental intervention if an incident occurs to show the child how to interact appropriately is most welcome.

NO BANGING THE WALLS OR DOORS. Once again please go to your child and redirect them back to the activity. Children under 3 are in the copying learning phase, so we must be careful what we show them and what one child shows another. Occasionally a child may just touch the wall in exploration, if they come back straight away to the activity we don't worry about it. If they stay we intervene.

BATHROOM: Every child must be accompanied by their carer to the bathroom please. Educator is not responsible for toilet training your child, nor are they able to watch your child while you have a bathroom break. It is the educator's responsibility to prepare for and conduct the lesson.

PRE-SCHOOLERS AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN: Carer must remain on the premises at all times to assist with toilet breaks. There is a sharing time element and it is imperative that you are available immediately for your child for sharing time. A viewing window has been provided for you to be able to observe the whole class, if you wish to do so. You are also welcome to participate in the whole class.

ALL CHILDREN LEAVING THE PREMISES MUST HOLD THEIR CARER'S HAND, BE SAFELY STRAPPED IN THE STROLLER OR BE CARRIED.

Thank you for your support in keeping the Musicrazy Studio a safe and happy learning environment ☺