

SUZUKI SCHOOL *of* NEWTON

2009-2010

Integrated Arts **PRESCHOOL**

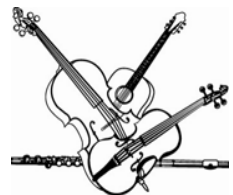
...a love of music, art and learning



www.suzukinewton.org

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SUZUKI SCHOOL of NEWTON

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Member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts (www.nationalguild.org) and the Suzuki Association of the Americas (www.suzukiassociation.org)



SUZUKI PRESCHOOL of NEWTON

INTRODUCTION

The Suzuki School of Newton is a non-profit community school of the arts, housed in the Newton Cultural Center at 225 Nevada Street, in the Newtonville village of Newton. Its preschool is modeled after the highly successful Talent Education Institute in Japan. The preschool is a comprehensive education program based on the Suzuki philosophy. We will offer a program for children ages 2.9-5 years old. Our



school hours will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on a ten-month basis. A 3-day option is also available for children three years of age. Our location is easily accessible from the entire metropolitan area. The Suzuki Preschool will only accept a limited number of students which allows us to offer many of the cultural opportunities available in the city while maintaining the advantages of a home-like environment to maximize each child's learning experience.

Our staff is very experienced and knowledgeable in Early Childhood Education.

Marlene Lerer, the Associate Director of the Suzuki School, has worked with Dr. Suzuki and has developed several Suzuki based educational programs in the United States. Marlene has her B.S. in Early Childhood Education and her M.Ed. from Ohio State and Cleveland State Universities.

Lisa Kideckel, our Preschool Director/Lead teacher is very experienced in early learning, with practical experience in planning and implementing curriculum for age appropriate activities. Lisa has her B.S. from Cornell University in Child Development and her M.Ed. from the University of Maryland. Lisa has her Director II Certification from the Commonwealth of MA.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Suzuki Preschool of Newton to instill in children at an early age a love and respect for education and the arts which will enrich them through their lives. We promote cultural, intellectual and character development through instruction and parent partnership.

SUZUKI PHILOSOPHY

The Suzuki philosophy is based on many well-established principles of learning and child development and is often referred to as the “mother tongue” method. This method was developed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, who is internationally known as the founder of the Talent Education Institute in Japan. Through many years of teaching thousands of young children to play classical violin, Dr. Suzuki developed a philosophy of education based upon the following observations:

- Children everywhere develop fluency and proficiency in the oral use of their native tongue at a very early age.
- The ability to speak is mastered through a natural process of replication.
- Talent is developed more spontaneously in the early years of a child’s life than after a child has matured.
- The first experience most children have with learning is in the home. The parents’ abilities to motivate an eagerness to learn are major factors in both how quickly a child learns, and whether the child sees learning as an enjoyable experience.

Dr. Suzuki’s analysis of these observations, considered over many years, resulted in three principles for developing a child’s potential, and formed the basis of the Suzuki philosophy:

- Good teachers at home and school, who apply a consistent message and method, provide a superior environment for learning.
- The sense of satisfaction derived from the development of basic skills through reinforcement and consistent practice instills enthusiasm for learning in the young child.
- Children should be provided at the earliest possible age with enriching educational experiences.

Dr. Suzuki contends that the main function of education is to develop an attitude of self-worth and independence in each human being. He calls this attitude a “Noble Heart.”

The Suzuki Preschool offers an atmosphere in which the characteristics of a “Noble Heart” are developed and reinforced in each child every day. By providing stimulation, encouragement and guidance in a setting charged with discovery and wonder, the creative potential of each child is consistently developed during the critical early years.

The essence of the Suzuki philosophy is the belief that natural talent and ability can be fostered in any child through training and nurturing the natural growth processes. It then follows that true learning and skill development are best accomplished when a child’s interests, thoughts and ideas are consistently stimulated and reinforced by parents and teachers working together.

CURRICULUM AND GOALS

The curriculum focuses on providing an environment rich in activities and experiences to encourage emerging development in all areas of growth. Each child is afforded an opportunity to interact in consistently novel ways with the environment, peers and adults. The program emphasizes process-orientated activities; however, goals and objectives are also set and measured in order to meet the academic standards at each grade level.

The Suzuki program concentrates on cognitive, social and psycho-motor development. These are interwoven throughout the program to fully develop each child's abilities and interests prior to his or her introduction to a primary school setting. The essential goal is to instill in each child a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.



Multi-generational Orchestra at SSN

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents have the opportunity to connect the teaching efforts of the home and school. These offerings operate in conjunction with the academic program and include:

- Workshops designed to orient parents to the Suzuki philosophy and teamwork approach to education. These workshops provide parents with practical child development information to be utilized at home, and offer parents guidance in effective behavior management skills and techniques.
- Weekly electronic newsletters that keeps families informed of all upcoming events
- Regular parent conferences, by appointment

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Suzuki Preschool of Newton offers a program to develop sound academic and social skills, as well as creative talents and abilities in each child. The structured Academic Program consists of three primary curricula:

The **Instructional** component focuses on reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies. This program emphasizes:

- Individual Instruction – Each child is individually assessed, and realistic goals are established for skill advancement. A cornerstone of the Suzuki approach is that each child progresses at his or her own pace.
- Development Skill Building – This is a step-by-step procedure for taking each child to higher levels of physical, social and intellectual competency.
- Continual Evaluation – Suzuki’s process assures that program goals are being met and that student progress is carefully monitored.
- Creative Arts – Provides enrichment in the Foreign Languages (French and Spanish), Art, Music, Creative Movement, Physical Education and Creative Dramatics.

Cultural training is designed to take the child beyond that which is expected in the basic instructional component. With its emphasis on world cultures, this part of the program is intended to meet the critical need for better communication and understanding in the world today. It is incorporated into the program through classroom instruction and enrichment activities which introduce customs and traditions of other nations, all of which are core elements of the Suzuki social studies curriculum. During its long history, the Suzuki School of Newton has attracted a highly diverse student body representing a wide cross-section of families from various cultural backgrounds. This environment provides each child with the opportunity to experience other children from different backgrounds. The child learns to appreciate this diversity which he or she will encounter in future learning and social environments. The Suzuki staff of teachers and administrators embraces diversity as a way of teaching children to appreciate themselves and respect others.



Finally, **Musical** instruction complements the academic and cultural components of the school. Dr. Suzuki’s philosophy and approach to teaching was founded based on his work with very young children in teaching violin, and thus our Suzuki Preschool includes music as an integral part of our curriculum. The program encourages an interest and provides a foundation in music by teaching students four disciplines:

- Eurhythmics—Relating hand gestures and motions to music, keeping a beat, recognizing and repeating rhythmic patterns.
- Singing—A child’s own voice is her/his best musical instrument - although children rarely develop a singing voice before age five, we work to help each child develop an awareness of his or her ability to vocally duplicate sounds, and to find his or her own voice.
- Musical Terminology—Recognizing and understandings such concepts as high and low, loud and soft, or fast and slow.
- Instrument Playing—Reproducing instrument rhythms used in beginning Suzuki method piano and violin lessons.

The Suzuki approach addresses a wide range of learning styles through individual, small-group and large-group instruction, depending on the subject matter and the unique needs of each child.

TYPICAL RHYTHM OF OUR DAY

9:00-9:15	Arrival and settling in
9:15-9:30	Meeting time (will include calendar, songs and finger plays, new English and foreign vocabulary words and center choices that are available that day). Children’s book will be shared.
9:30-10:30	Free choice during child-centered learning stations (may include theme oriented art experiences, science, math, language, emergent literacy, music, practical life experiences, small motor activities). The children are encouraged to spend as much quality time as they wish in any learning area.
10:20-10:50	Snack and conversation (stories can be shared here)
10:50-11:30	Outdoor Activities, creative dancing (outdoors or indoors), use of our large motor room, percussion and rhythm instruments.
11:30-12:00	Small Group Activities—Children will be exposed to musical instruments by an instructor from the music school—games, flannel boards etc...) and farewell meeting.

ADMISSION

- Attend an Open House or Parent Tea
- Request a Parent Interview
- Fill out an application and Schedule a trial day for the child
- Parent/Child Interview with Preschool Director
- Notification of acceptance

Please RSVP

Parent Teas (*parents only please*)

-Contact the office for future dates

Open Houses

-Contact the office for future dates

Submit full application and deposit to reserve enrollment

To apply for admission, parents should request an initial parent interview, which is required prior to enrollment. During the interview, parents will have the opportunity to tour our facilities, learn more about the Suzuki philosophy, and schedule a trial day for their child. Along with completing an application, an interview will follow. Acceptance is based upon readiness and staff recommendation.

Upon acceptance, a non-refundable registration fee of \$300 is required to complete the admission process. Of this fee, \$200 will be applied toward tuition. Enrollment is open as space becomes available.

To schedule an appointment for an initial interview, or to request more information, please call 617-964-4522 or email [**preschool@suzukinewton.org**](mailto:preschool@suzukinewton.org)

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