Suzuki Early Childhood Education (SECE) Class Policies

The Suzuki Early Childhood Education Philosophy

Welcome to our Suzuki Early Childhood Education (SECE) music class! This program is based on the philosophy of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, who believed that "every child can" learn and that ability is developed, not just inborn. Our SECE classes are designed to create a calm, enjoyable, and nurturing environment where children from birth to age four can develop essential life skills alongside their musical potential. Each week, we go through one of two carefully sequenced curricula of songs, rhymes, and movement. We focus on building character, concentration, and a love for learning.

The parent or caregiver is the child's first and most important teacher, and your active participation is central to our shared success. Your support and encouragement are essential as your child grows more and more comfortable in the environment and engages more and more with the activities. Be patient and watch for evidence that your child is capable and wonderful.

Class Logistics

- **Punctuality:** Classes are one hour long and will start and end on time. You are welcome to arrive up to 10 minutes early to prepare for class. This is a great time for storing personal items, taking off shoes, washing hands, bathroom stops, or baby feedings so we can begin our time together peacefully.
- **Classroom:** Please leave shoes, purses, and other personal items outside of the classroom. You can step out at any point to get things you may need.
- **Hand Washing:** Before class begins, everyone (adults and children) will wash their hands with soap and water. This simple step helps us all stay healthy, especially during cold and flu season.

Tuition & Enrollment

- **Registration Fee:** There is a one-time registration fee of $20 per family.
- **Tuition:** Tuition is $50 per month which includes participation for one parent/guardian and one child.
- **Continuous Enrollment:** This is a continuous enrollment class.
- **Payment:** Payments are automatically billed on the same day each month (starting Oct 2026).

Attendance & Cancellations

- **Missed Classes by Student:** If you are unable to attend class, please let me know via text. You have the option to attend another class time that week to make up for the missed class. **Cancellations made less than 24 hours in advance and no-shows will not be eligible for rescheduling or refunds.**
- **Sick Policy:** Please do not come to class if you or your child are sick. This is essential to keep everyone healthy and to help others feel safe coming to class. You may attend another class time that or the following week to make up for the missed class once you are better.
    - Until multiple class times per week are available, you can receive a $10 refund for classes missed with 24 hours notice or for missing for a sickness.
- **Cancellations by Teacher:** If I must cancel a class for any reason, I will provide as much notice as possible. I will provide notice in writing via text or email. I will make a strong effort to ensure we average to 4 classes per month.

Getting the Most Out of Our Classes

Your partnership is key to a wonderful class experience. Here are a few tips:

- **Create a Distraction-Free Space:** Before entering the classroom, let's place items like shoes, toys, pacifiers, bags, keys, snacks, and drinks in the welcome area to help our children focus.
- **Participate as the Adult:** You are your child's most important teacher. When you smile and sing along with the activities, so will your child (eventually).
- **Honor Your Child's Needs:** If your child needs a moment to self-regulate, it is perfectly fine to step into the other room. Returning to the group when ready helps your child, you, and the rest of the class.
- **Stay Together:** During class, the child is expected to stay near their participating adult, except during specific activities when movement is encouraged.
- **Embrace Listening Turns:** It is perfectly okay for a child to take "listening turns" if they are not yet comfortable taking their turn with an instrument or activity. Children progress best when their participation is comfortable and self-directed.
- **Practice at Home:** Listening to the SECE songs at home is a wonderful way to build familiarity and reinforce learning between classes.

Referrals

I love teaching your children and consider it the best job in the world. If you know of anyone looking for a wonderful music experience for their child, I would be grateful for a referral!

Agreements & Waivers

- **Photo/Video Release:** I sometimes take pictures or videos during class that may be posted online for promotional purposes (e.g., website, social media). A child's name is never associated with the image. Please let me know if you have any concerns about your child's picture being shared.
- **Termination of Enrollment:** Please provide **one month's notice** in writing (email or text is acceptable) when you are ready to end your enrollment. No refunds will be given for prepaid classes.
- **Waiver of Liability:** I am not liable for accidents or injuries occurring on my property before, during, or after class times. If an injury does occur, please let me know immediately so I can make any necessary changes to prevent future incidents.

I reserve the right to address any behavior that makes my family or other class members feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

By paying tuition and attending class, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the studio policies.