



# Delaware Early Childhood Council

## *Policy Brief: Music in Early Childhood: Laying the Foundation for Success in the State of Delaware* | OCTOBER 2013

*Through music, children develop imagination, sensitivity, creativity, and self-expression, while gaining a better understanding of themselves, others, and the world around them. Inclusion of music during the foundational years of early childhood helps children reach their full potential as human beings.*



### Building Success Through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math = **S.T.E.A.M.**

- ♪ Music education enhances the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains of young children.
- ♪ Musical participation fosters young children's ability to communicate and collaborate.
- ♪ Music is a catalyst for the development of young children's academic, social, and emotional skills.
- ♪ Young children develop attentiveness and perseverance through music guidance.
- ♪ Musical guidance prepares the brain for achievement and innovation.
- ♪ Musical interaction forms a unique bond between parent or caregiver and child.
- ♪ Young children's musical and creative capacities take flight when supported by music teachers and caregivers.
- ♪ Music is a key part of children's cultural heritage and sense of identity.

*All young children should have access to play-based informal and guided music education. Music education is imperative for young children to receive a holistic education.*

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The Delaware Early Childhood Council (ECC) is the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood for children from birth to eight years of age. The ECC is charged with carrying out all of the functions designated in the federal *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007* and other functions as assigned by the Governor, General Assembly, and the Interagency Resource Management Committee. The ECC primarily comprises private-sector members, but includes public-sector members from the Departments of Health and Social Services, Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, and Education. The 19 members of the Council are appointed by the Governor.

## Taking Action

- 🎵 Include music in the core curriculum at all accredited early childhood centers.
- 🎵 Provide early childhood educators and caretakers with professional development in early childhood music.
- 🎵 Create partnerships between music specialists and early childhood centers to:
  - 🎵 Provide educational and technical assistance.
  - 🎵 Model best practices to caregivers and parents.
- 🎵 Award **DE STARS** quality points to exemplary childcare centers that include developmentally appropriate early childhood music in the curriculum.



		<i>The Impact of Music Education</i>				
		Literacy	Science	Technology	Engineering	Mathematics
Academics	Problem Solving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Spatial Temporal Reasoning		✓		✓	✓
	Speech & Language Processing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Reading Readiness	✓				
	Understanding Relationships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Structure (Form & Patterns)	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Time & Space		✓	✓	✓	
	Mental Capacity & Intellect	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Skills	Decision Making	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Interactions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Meaningful Relationships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Development of Friends	✓			✓	
	Group Identity		✓		✓	
	Mastery of Physical Self				✓	
Emotional Skills	Development of Social Roles	✓	✓			
	Self Regulation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Self Knowledge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Self Identity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Impulse/Anger Control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Expression	✓				
	Development of the Affective	✓				

*The critical period for musical development is pre-birth through age 7—before music aptitude stabilizes.*

### Selected References

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