



Tried & True Teacher Tips

Little Kiddos Music Academy® video classes are designed to make teaching music easy, engaging, and fun. Simply press play, participate alongside your students, and let the lesson guide you! While the videos do the teaching, **your enthusiasm, encouragement, and classroom management** are what make the biggest difference.

Consistency & Routine

Young children thrive on predictable routines. The consistent structure of every Little Kiddos Music Academy® lesson helps children feel safe, confident, and ready to participate.

Because each class follows the same general format and uses familiar phrases, songs, and expectations, children quickly learn what comes next. Over time, this consistency encourages independence, smoother transitions, and greater participation.

While the videos remain consistent, remember that every class is different. Some days your students may need extra encouragement, additional movement, or a slower pace—and that's perfectly okay. You know your kiddos best. Feel free to pause, slow down, repeat or skip as needed.

Relationships First

Even though the instruction comes from the video, you are still your students' teacher.

One of the most valuable things you can do is build positive relationships with your kiddos. Greet them warmly, learn their names, celebrate their successes, and participate alongside them. When children feel connected to the adults in the room, they're more willing to engage, take risks, and learn.

Your excitement is contagious!

Participation Over Perfection

Every child participates differently.

Some children will eagerly sing every word and perform every movement.

Others—especially toddlers and younger preschoolers—may quietly observe for several weeks before joining in.

Both are learning.

Continue modeling the movements, singing the songs, and using the Fancy Pants Music Words. Young children absorb far more than they may outwardly show.

Encourage Movement

Movement is an essential part of every video lesson.

Whenever the class isn't playing an instrument, children are usually:

- Keeping a steady beat with body percussion
- Performing hand motions
- Dancing or moving their whole bodies
- Practicing balance and coordination

Please join in! Children are much more likely to participate when they see their teacher having fun.

If your class seems especially energetic or restless, don't hesitate to pause the video briefly for a movement break or skip to one of the *Full Body Movement* sections before continuing.

Classroom Expectations

Your role during the videos is to help children learn classroom expectations while keeping music time joyful.

A few simple routines go a long way:

- Model the expected behavior.
- Give short, clear reminders.
- Praise children who are following directions.
- Keep expectations positive and consistent.

If a child repeatedly misuses an instrument after reminders, calmly remove it and let them know they may try again when they're ready. Positive reinforcement is one of your greatest classroom management tools.

Instrument Distribution

Whenever possible:

- If using assorted rhythm instruments for the *Rockin' Rhythms*, try to help kiddos pass instruments in the same direction each class. This establishes a routine which cuts way down on any behavior issues regarding instrument play.
- Encourage children to wait until instructed before playing.
- Pause video and collect all instruments before moving on to the next activity.

Consistent routines help children become increasingly independent throughout the year.

Before Each Activity

Young children benefit from knowing what's about to happen.

Before pressing play or before handing out instruments, you can briefly tell kiddos what they'll be doing.

For example:

"It's time for playing egg shakers. I will pass them out. Keep them in rest position on the floor until Ms. Jenny says it's time to play."

or

"We're going to move our full bodies now. Stand up, make sure you stay in your own safety bubble and we'll follow Ms. Jenny for directions."

A quick preview helps children understand expectations and participate more confidently.

For Our Littlest Kiddos

Children under age two often learn by watching before joining in. (Some kiddos are cautious observers regardless of age.)

That's perfectly normal.

Continue modeling every movement, using the music vocabulary, and celebrating even the smallest attempts to participate.

Slow things down when needed, repeat favorite songs, and remember that observation is learning too.

Flexibility Is Part of Great Teaching

No two preschool classes are alike.

If your class needs an extra movement break, allow for it.

If they're especially engaged in an activity afterward, let them enjoy the moment before moving on.

Little Kiddos Music Academy® classes are designed to support you—not rush you. Your responsiveness to your students is just as important as the content itself.

Most Important of All...

Have fun!

Children learn best from adults who genuinely enjoy making music with them. Smile, sing, dance, be silly, and celebrate every small success.

Music creates joyful memories—and your enthusiasm helps make those moments unforgettable.

Thank you for sharing Little Kiddos Music with the little kiddos in your care!