



Contact Us

**Varhaisiän musiikinopettajat ry -
Småbarns musiklärare rf**
**Association for Early Childhood
Music Teachers**



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In cooperation with

Suomen musiikinopettajien liitto ry
Musiklärarförbundet i Finland rf
Finnish Union of Music Teachers



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Did you know?

- Music playschool is the most popular pastime of preschool-aged children in Finland!
- Approximately 50 000 Finnish children attend music playschools under various organizations

How to Become an ECM Educator?

Early Childhood Music Education programs are offered by universities of applied sciences in Helsinki and Jyväskylä. The study program consists of 270 ECTS credits. In addition, teachers specializing in Early Childhood Music Education are trained at the Sibelius Academy.



About Us

**Varhaisiän musiikinopettajat ry /
Småbarns musiklärare rf**
**Association for Early Childhood
Music Teachers**

Founded in 1979, the Association for Early Childhood Music Teachers has approximately 300 members. This national organization functions under the Finnish Union of Music Teachers (SMOL). The objectives of the association include developing preschool music education, promoting ongoing pedagogical education for our members, protecting and advancing the interests of our members and promoting training and legislation in the field.

Become a Member

You may become a full member of the Association if you fulfill the current qualification requirements or if you are close to finishing your ECM Educator training. Anyone may become a supporting member. More information about becoming a member and the fees involved is available on the Association website.

Educator Database & Recruitment

The Educator Database (Kouluttajapankki) on the Association website helps you find educators and lecturers for various Early Childhood Music Education training needs. On the Recruitment (Rekry) page you can look for an employer or an employee.

Publications

Rikko tikko tei

New pedagogical songs for educators and parents. Rikko tikko tei. More information and to order: jarjestosihteeri@vamory.fi

Pikkutrilli (Li'l Trill) Magazine

The Early Childhood Music Education trade magazine. Media information and subscriptions: www.vamory.fi



Early Childhood Music Education



Wide-Ranging Musical Expertise



What is it?



Early Childhood Music Education (ECME) is professionally organized, goal-oriented music education given by Early Childhood Music Educators who have had versatile training.

Music Education – For Whom?

- Family Groups – children aged 0-2 years and their parents
- Music Playschool Groups – children aged 3-6 years
- Musical Instrument Groups
- Primary Music Teaching Groups
- Fundamentals of Music Theory Groups
- Interdisciplinary Art Groups
- Special Needs Groups
- Prenatal Music Groups

ECM Educators can also provide further education for early childhood educators, comprehensive school teachers, musical instrument and music theory teachers as well as social services staff. Further, they can organize music activities for the elderly.



How?



The education is based on activating the participants in a way that progresses from easy to more challenging. The bases of the education are learning by doing, utilizing creativity and providing multisensory experiences.

Means of Learning

- Singing and nursery rhymes
- Playing musical instruments
- Moving and rhythmic
- Listening
- Play



Objectives of Music Playschool Education



ECME aims to enhance development in

- Musical skills
- Social and emotional skills
- Cognitive skills
- Psychomotoric skills
- Aesthetics

Specific goals are shaped through interaction with the surrounding society, culture and the understanding of humanity in it. Each age group has its own set of objectives determined by factors such as the age and developmental stage of the children, group size, the timing of the lessons, as well as the teacher's personality, values and identity as a musician.

When teaching young children, the holistic development of the child's personality is always more important than the artistic outcome.

Where?



Early Childhood Music Education is provided by music institutes, private music playschools, churches, the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare, and adult education centers. A qualified educator must have training in music pedagogy.



Research



Music is interaction. Interaction between the mother and child may begin already in weeks 16-17 of pregnancy as the fetus develops hearing. All prenatal auditory experiences are familiar to the baby after the birth and therefore provide a sense of security. Prenatal music experiences promote postpartum interaction between the mother and baby by developing listening skills, the ability to be present and to express oneself. Song play between the baby and parent builds a solid foundation for attachment and promotes language acquisition. It has been found that activities begun before birth have a significant positive impact: the most rapid phase of human development takes place before birth.

Music playschool activities have a strong impact on the brain development of a child: the parts of the brain linked to the auditory system are activated; the ability to perceive, remember and differentiate between sounds is improved and the child's ability to control his or her attention is developed. For primary school aged children, music develops auditory abilities and attentiveness skills that are useful not only in music education but also when learning foreign languages, concentrating in a busy classroom environment, and learning in general.

Creating music together, for example in a choir or a band, slows down the aging of brain tissue and may even facilitate rehabilitation from brain injuries. Music is therefore beneficial for anyone, regardless of age.

More information about the effects of music before birth:

Marjanen K. 2009: The Belly-Button Chord. Conventions of Pre- and Postnatal Music Education with Early Mother-Child Interaction. University of Jyväskylä. Jyväskylä studies in Humanities 130. PhD Thesis in Music Education. Available at: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-39-3769-0>

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