



Information for students

Hello and welcome to Little Bo Beats! We can't wait to meet you and your little music makers.

What do I need to bring?

If you're bringing a small baby to the class bring a blanket or rug to put bub on. Make sure you're all wearing clothing that is comfortable and easy to move around and sit on the floor in.

Make sure you've had a drink and a bite to eat before the class – we ask that there is no food or drink during lessons to protect the instruments. Breast or bottle feeding a baby is of course the exception.

What do we do when we arrive?

Try to arrive 5 minutes early so you have time to settle in. Pop your belongings and prams against the wall, take off your shoes and ensure your hands are clean. **PLEASE turn your phone to silent or turn it off and leave it in your bag – Little Bo Beats is a phone-free zone!** Your child will need your help and having phones ringing or beeping during teaching is obviously very disruptive to the class.

Once you are ready come and join the circle – we will endeavour to always start on time!

What do we do during the lesson?

If you're ever unsure about what to do the best answer is to copy what the teacher is doing, but here are some guidelines for what to expect during different activities:

- ♪ Circle Time: Many activities at Little Bo Beats will happen while sitting in a circle. Try and keep the circle tight and gather your child to sit with you.
- ♪ Movement: At some points we will get up and move around - move beside your child and gently guide their direction. It is also okay to carry them - they will feel the rhythm of your movement.
- ♪ Instruments and Props: We make an effort to choose the most child-safe instruments and props possible. However, children have a super power of destruction - please ensure that your children are using them safely and appropriately.



- ♪ **Actions:** During action songs it is most productive for you to do the actions yourself rather than try and move your child's hands. An exception to this is when actions involve tapping –it is helpful to your child if you tap them if they are not yet doing so themselves.
- ♪ **Sing!** Whilst there are some songs where it will be okay to listen, most songs will be singable. We may not stop to teach you the song but once you hear it a few times please join in, even just the little bits you know. The good news is that you probably already know a lot of the songs we sing.

What if I'm not a good singer?

Here at Little Bo Beats we don't believe there is any such thing! Everyone has been given a beautiful voice for self expression. Your child needs to hear your voice - please don't underestimate the importance of singing to your children. It is one of the most valuable things you can do for them. There is no better way to develop your singing voice than singing together with a room full of people. We promise not to judge!

What is expected from my child?

There is no required level of participation or "achievement" – as you know all children are different and have varying skills and levels of confidence. However, we do ask our students to learn that they need to listen, try their best and to be respectful of the props and instruments.

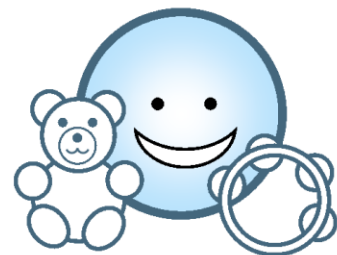
To aid this we have developed some images that we may refer to in class – these act as a visual reminder for the little ones of what behaviour is expected (obviously within the limits of a toddler's abilities!).



Good listening



Trying my best



Looking after the toys
and instruments



My child is not participating, is this a waste of time?

No! Our music and activities are carefully chosen so that your child is learning just by being in the room and hearing the music going on around them. There are a few common reasons that your child might not be participating the way that you expect. They might not feel safe to participate during class time but you may find them secretly singing the songs at home. Our activities cater for the fact that kids develop at different rates, so it is possible that your child is not quite ready to perform a particular skill yet and that's okay. Let them experience it at their own level.

Of course, the best way to encourage involvement is to be fully participating yourself. Often your child will want to join in when they see you having fun and if not they will hear the sound of your voice and feel you moving to the beat and absorb the content that way.

If you are worried that there is something preventing your child from participating to their full capacity then please talk to your teacher - Little Bo Beats is an inclusive environment and we will work with you to find a solution.

Any new situation can be daunting for kids (and adults). We recommend that you stick with the program for a while even if you didn't enjoy one particular lesson or activity.

When you leave:

You will be provided with some suggestions for activities you can do together at home to reinforce the concepts you've been learning. It's not compulsory; however, children who are doing these activities regularly will get the most benefit out of the program. Don't worry, we promise you won't need a music degree to be able to do them.

We also provide recordings of some of the songs that can be streamed from our member's only "Mother Hubbard's Cupboard" on our website.

Expect to be smiling and singing all the way home.

If you have any questions or special requirements please contact me at bec@littlebobeats.com.au or on 0401 351 447.

Looking forward to meeting you soon!

Bec