

THE RHYTHM CHILD EXPERIENCE

The Rhythm Child Network regards the drum as an instrument of togetherness. It is something that every child can experiment with and find his or her own space within the context of a much larger group. We encourage each individual to find a way to express themselves while listening to the unique expressions of everyone around. This way a child can learn to hear the textures and layers in music. Through the drum circle they can directly experience how different beats are coming together to form a greater collective rhythm; like in building where a single stone is added and shaped to fit with other stones in order to form a strong foundation.



As the lead drummer, Norm Jones provides a steady and flowing groove that makes it easy for others to join in and play along. It doesn't matter what one person plays: whatever offering a participant wants to add to the groove, the beat remains rock solid. Rhythm Child's "player friendly" environment allows for everyone involved to become involved musically without pressure or fear. We have found that there are numerous ways that young children respond to rhythm and it's important to have something definite for them to play along to.

- Some kids relate to the melody of music.
- Some kids hear the beat.
- Some kids react very hyper and frantic.
- Some kids play very soft and tentative.
- Some kids cover their ears.
- Some kids wiggle their tongues.
- Some kids can't sit still and others barely move a muscle.
- Some kids just have to jump up and down.
- Some kids roll and wiggle on the ground.

There are so many different approaches that a child will take to music and the freedom of drum interaction allows for all of those ways to be expressed. It is very easy to recognize a child that is naturally drawn to music as well as the ones that are very reluctant to engage. Rhythm Child tries to reach both types of individuals and make them feel part of an inspiring group experience.

The Rhythm Child Network aims to provide a safe and rewarding environment within its music that invites children to become involved. The goal is not to teach technique or theory, but to encourage experimentation and creativity. The drum is simply a vehicle to explore the many avenues of rhythm and it is hoped that after learning to feel comfortable with sound and interaction, a child will grow to have a life long relationship with music and expression.