

What to expect in your *Little Stars* class

Welcome to the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust and to Little Stars, the new initiative for children under 7 years old.

We are delighted that you and your child will be attending music sessions at either Kettering Road or one of our other NMPAT centres.



To ensure the smooth running of each session:

All children participating in Little Stars activities should have a nominated adult in the building. For the youngest children, their adult will be with them in the music session. For children taking part in independent sessions the NMPAT teacher will be responsible for them in the room and their adult should remain in the waiting area.

As the rooms are used by many different groups throughout the week and the building is old, there may be furniture and equipment, hot heating pipes and radiators, stacked chairs, music stands and pianos, etc. Efforts are made to make the spaces 'child friendly' but adults are asked to remain vigilant and bring exploring children back into the main space as calmly and quickly as possible.

There are chairs (and separate space if required) available for those needing to feed young babies - as children are moving about, moving to the side to feed a baby is encouraged so that no one trips over or gets fallen on.

There are toilets and basic changing facilities close to the teaching rooms. Parents must accompany children when these are being used:-

The practical nature of the music making means that children will share equipment so hand-washing/sanitising is recommended before and after each session. Sanitizer is available at several points around the building.

Please put mobile phones on 'silent' and keep them out of sight (tell the practitioner if there is a reason to have a phone out such as being 'on call').

Food should not be brought into the sessions. Children needing a quick drink should sit back from the main group to minimise risk of choking or spilling.



Finally, all those attending *Little Stars* music sessions are entitled to participate in music making in a safe and supportive environment. This applies to all children, their adults and NMPAT practitioners.



To ensure the smooth running of each session, all adults are asked to model responsible behaviour – encouraging gentle use of instruments and props, joining in with familiar songs and rhymes and helping children share and take-turns.

Sessions are planned with the unique child in mind. Children may choose to sit, stand, wander, or lie down. However, on occasions when behaviour disrupts the flow of the session, becomes very distracting, causes anxiety amongst other participants, or poses a danger to the child, other families, furniture or equipment, staff will intervene.

Participants are asked to respect the privacy of others in the group, a) not sharing information without express permission of those concerned and b) not taking photos-unless specific permission has been given by the session leader.

Physical Contact Policy

A copy of the Physical Contact Policy can be found in the Early Years area and copies can be obtained from the NMPAT office.



Membership

Payment for membership should be made through the NMPAT office at the beginning of each 10 week term. Late payment may incur an extra charge.

For those on low incomes, application can be made for support with membership costs.

Key people

Sarah Wise, Little Stars project lead swise@nmpat.co.uk

Serien Partridge, Little Stars teacher

Gina Kirkwood, Little Stars office support office@nmpat.co.uk

