



## Sprouting Melodies®: Opportunities for Success

**If a child is not participating, but is engaged with the music....**

- ✓ Acknowledge that the child is out of the circle, but still engaged
- ✓ Give the parent specific examples of how you can tell he is still engaged - eye contact, starting and stopping moving, playing an instrument, movement/dancing
- ✓ Try to redirect verbally or narrate what they are doing to the child (speaking what they are doing)
- ✓ If the child walks or crawls by you can scoop them up and put him/her in your lap. If uncomfortable with that, pass to parents lap.
- ✓ If they really are still engaged, allow them to continue to move and try to keep their attention and engagement through eye contact, verbal comments, and changes in the music.

**If child is clearly not engaged with the music, but not being harmful to anybody (e.g. sitting still outside of the circle, staying close to parent, but not engaged).**

- ✓ Use the music to pull them back in
- ✓ Ask the child to make a choice - even if they aren't able to answer. You don't necessarily have to wait for an answer, you just want their attention. Maybe use a rhetorical question.
- ✓ Know behavior and expected responses from each developmental age/level. Maybe the child is doing what they should be doing.
- ✓ Try to engage the child, but not to the detriment of the rest of group. You don't want to lose the others while trying to engage a child who is not interfering in the group music experience.
- ✓ Involve them, but don't make too big of a deal out of it.
- ✓ After the group, ask the parent individually how they do in other settings - this is important information in early childhood screening.



**Raising Harmony™**

## **Sprouting Melodies®: Opportunities for Success**

**If a child is clearly not engaged with the music and being harmful, it is your role and responsibility to:**

- ✓ Verbally redirect first- if child is not hurting anyone.
- ✓ Physically prompt or stop behavior if child doesn't respond to verbal redirection.
- ✓ If someone is going to be hurt, immediately intervene physically and stop the dangerous behavior.
- ✓ Speak or meet with the parents and plan strategies.

### **GENERAL STRATEGIES:**

- ✓ Model for the parent how to redirect the child
- ✓ Use signs for "All Done"
- ✓ Be clear with expectations and maintain consistency through your language, tone of voice and explanations
- ✓ Always explain to the parents what, why and how you are managing behavior

**We do provide community screening for preschoolers and young children with disabilities. It is our ethical responsibility to talk with parents when behaviors in the group seem to be caused by sensory needs, delays in language and communication skills or other physical or cognitive delays. We need to start a conversation with the parent.**

- ✓ Find out if behaviors persist in other environments
- ✓ Ask the parents what they notice at home.
- ✓ Ask if they have ever considered or called Early Intervention for an evaluation.
- ✓ Provide information, phone numbers, web sites etc.