

Getting Started in Music

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Erin Ruddy

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Ever since my first son was born he's shown an **affinity for music**. In fact, when most little boys are learning to throw a baseball or hold a hockey stick, my son



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was beating on a drum and singing his patchy rendition of "Old MacDonald" while strumming his three dollar, secondhand guitar.

At two, his obsession with drums and the guitar escalated to the banjo. Fortunately (and rather surprisingly), *Melissa & Doug Toys* happen to make a wooden banjo for \$30, so that's what he got for his birthday. Now, at three, he's all about learning to play **the violin**.

Yes, the violin. It's that lovely, delicate stringed instrument that would smash to bits if a child were to suddenly whack it on the ground or drop it "accidentally" down the stairs. Presumably, it would also be a rented instrument—one that came with a thick contract signed in blood, outlining penalties for every nick, scrape or scratch that a magnifying glass could reveal. (In case you are wondering, *Melissa & Doug* do not make a \$30 toy version.)

So, is this just a passing phase or what?

As parents, we all want to give our kids the very best that life can offer. We want them to follow their dreams and we certainly don't want to stand in the way of their... destiny. (Yes, I said it. Because secretly I *am* hoping my son is destined to be a violin virtuoso, whether he's thinking that long term or not.) So today, when I received news of this wonderful new music website, just launched in May, it ignited a flame in me to **investigate lessons** once and for all.

The site is called www.musiclessonmatch.com and it is a **free online resource for Canadian families** looking to connect with a local music teacher. Parents can search by cost, instrument, in home or studio lessons. They can also post a job if they cannot find their perfect match. Launched by Canadian moms and school teachers who are constantly bombarded with questions about music—like, what age can my child start lessons? What instruments are best for beginners? Where can I find a great teacher? Is my child the next virtuoso?—the site aims to answer all that and so much more.

So, if you're like me and looking to enroll your child in music lessons this fall or anytime in the future, then please visit www.musiclessonmatch.com today.