

## **Press Release – February 3, 2004**

For Immediate Release

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### **Renaissance Tots Gives Presentation on the Role of Music in Child Development**

**Morgan Hill, CA** - On Monday, February 2, 2004, Renaissance Tots gave a presentation regarding the role of music in child development at the monthly Parents' Night of the Morgan Hill Parent-Child Nursery School. David S. Wang, the founder of Renaissance Tots, talked briefly about how Renaissance Tots came to be – and about the mission of the program. David also discussed research into the role of music in child development that is presented on the internet. David provided a sampling of statistics found online – and also supplied the attendees with some website addresses where research results could be found.

Melissa Gunter, a certified Kindermusik educator and Renaissance Tots teacher, then discussed how music can positively influence the development of newborns to 3 year-olds. Melissa is in her 7<sup>th</sup> year of teaching Kindermusik (and her 16<sup>th</sup> year of teaching private piano lessons) in Morgan Hill, and she relayed some applicable personal teaching experiences to the audience – including her experience breaking through to a particular autistic child in a Kindermusik class. Melissa closed her portion of the presentation by having the entire audience participate in a circle dance – illustrating the notions of “high” and “low” and “stop” and “go”.

Alicia Ammann, a newly certified Kindermusik educator and Renaissance Tots teacher, followed Melissa's portion of the presentation by speaking to how music can help the physical, emotional, language, social and cognitive development of young children. Alicia then spoke more directly to the role of music in enhancing the learning abilities of 3 to 7 year-olds. Alicia showed some video of an actual Kindermusik class in action and concluded her portion of the presentation by involving the audience with the Jack-in-the-Box song.

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The presentation ended with the raffling off of a gift certificate (good for a free enrollment in a Renaissance Tots Kindermusik class session). Mishele Mays and her daughter Alaya used the gift certificate they won to participate in a Kindermusik Imagine That! class (3 to 5 year-olds).

Renaissance Tots offers a full program of Kindermusik classes: including separate curricula for newborns to 1 ½ year-olds, 1 ½ to 3 year-olds, 3 to 5 year-olds, and 5 to 7 year-olds. Classes are available throughout the week at Advent Lutheran Church, 16870 Murphy Avenue, Morgan Hill, California.

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*For more than 25 years, Kindermusik International has touched the lives of over a million children and their families, introducing them to the joy of learning through music. With a revolutionary combination of music and early childhood development research, more than 4,500 Kindermusik educators teach children ages newborn to 7 in over 35 countries around the world.*

For more information about Renaissance Tots' Kindermusik program, call (408) 427-2833, email [rtots@hotmail.com](mailto:rtots@hotmail.com) or visit the website: [www.rtots.com](http://www.rtots.com).