

Press Release – April 9, 2004

For Immediate Release

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Renaissance Tots Launches Unique Learning Program for Young Kids

Morgan Hill, CA - On Tuesday, January 20, 2004, Renaissance Tots launched a new program in Morgan Hill – teaching Kindermusik classes to the littlest music makers. Kindermusik is the world’s leading music and movement program for children from birth to seven years of age. After successfully establishing Renaissance Tots’ viability, additional classes were added to the weekly schedule during the week of April 5. The location of the classroom is at Advent Lutheran Church (16870 Murphy Ave.).

Jingling bells, pounding drums, floating scarves, “hooting” owl sounds and little feet moving in time to music... these are just a few of the sights and sounds parents and children experience at Renaissance Tots’ Kindermusik classes. Parents with newborns, toddlers, and children up to seven years old can participate in Kindermusik for a fun, valuable learning experience for both the child and the parent.

Moms, dads, grandparents and more than 85 children have participated in the fun and educational experience of Renaissance Tots classes in the past 12 weeks – through weekly classes, drop-in classes and a Kindermusik-themed birthday party.

Melisa Bicknell and Katalin DeBord recently completed their first 8-week session with their little music-makers and have re-enrolled for a second 8-week session. Ms. Bicknell wanted to expose her son Drake “to the benefits of music and interaction with a teacher and other children in a structured setting.” Ms. DeBord was looking forward to spending more “time together for learning and fun” with her son Jack. At the conclusion of the session, Ms. Bicknell stated that, “all goals and expectations [for the class] were met!” Ms. DeBord proclaimed, “I loved the class.”

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Renaissance Tots employs two licensed Kindermusik educators: Melissa Gunter and Alicia Ammann. Melissa Gunter is virtually a life-long resident of Morgan Hill who has taught private piano lessons for 15 years and has taught Kindermusik classes for 6 years. According to Melissa, Kindermusik classes provide an excellent outlet for introducing the role of music in a child's development.

“Recent research has proven that early musical education is extremely beneficial to improving a child's complex reasoning skills and spatial relationships. Kindermusik provides a well-rounded education for the student, including songs and chants which improve speech development, dances and musical games to facilitate a steady beat, motor skills and basic timing,” Gunter explains. “We play a variety of musical instruments which contributes to the development of fine motor skills. Each week part of the lesson is devoted to focused listening, which is ideal for the young child, as we all know! Kindermusik exposes the child to a wide range of music and includes a take-home activity each week. The best part of all - it's a lot of fun!”

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. Renaissance Tots also plans to begin teaching classes at Gilroy's First Baptist Church at 8455 Wren Avenue in the near future.

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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 or visit the website: www.rtots.com.