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MUMS, BUBS AND MUSIC



Chloe (left) and Brady, both 16 months, making music at their class.

For the past fifteen months, Jill Holland has been conducting Fun with Music classes for children from 6 months up to 5 yearseach Friday in

Thornleigh Community Centre.

The classes run for 4 terms of 7 or 8 weeks and Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents are welcome to enjoy the activities with the children.

"Whilst recorded music may provide opportunities for listening to music, I believe when carers sing to and with their children, they provide valuable moments for connecting with their children and nurturing musical growth. It is very rewarding for me to be able to facilitate this process," said Jill who has studied singing and is a nationally accredited teacher of the Kodaly Music Institute of Australia, a Bachelor of

Education (early childhood) and who has completed an early childhood music course with Dr. John M. Feierabend, Professor of Music at the University of Hartford, and a leading authority on music and movement in early childhood.

Prior to commencing her current program, Jill spent 12 years teaching early childhood music classes for Macquarie University.

The program Jill uses is based on the philosophy of Zoltan Kodaly, Hungarian music composer and educator, who believed that all music education should begin with singing. When unaccompanied, singing leads to highly developed aural skills and these are developed

through fun activities, using singing games and rhymes and a variety of folk, classical and contemporary music for listening and moving. The children also use percussion instruments.

In the babies and tiny tots class, carers learn songs, rhymes and activities that can be used in everyday life where the most teachable moments arise. These include: ball songs, bouncing rhymes, tickling games, body awareness songs and lullabies. These all assist in developing the bond between the adult and child.

A spin-off is that mums at the class we attended had not met before they commenced the classes and now they enjoy friendships and conversations on their lives and children.

Jill is also available to share music at playgroups and if you should wish to find out more about the classes call 9484 7226 or go to www.jillsmusic.com