

International Suzuki Association **Suzuki Early Childhood Education**

DEFINITION OF SUZUKI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (SECE)

Suzuki Early Childhood Education is the realization of potential through active and reactive participation in the environment which surrounds a child from birth. It is based on the assumptions:

- every child can learn
- there are no limits to a child's potential

The uniqueness of Suzuki Early Childhood Education is the emphasis on the natural development of the child from birth and the rich and stimulating learning partnerships that are developed with parents and teachers.

The goal is to create an environment for children, free from pressure in which they can gain skills, a sense of purpose in life, an understanding of discipline and an appreciation of beauty.

Based on Suzuki concepts **Thorough Mastery** and **Mother Tongue Approach**, the Suzuki Early Childhood Educator evaluates every learning activity with the following:

- Every child can learn
- Ability develops early
- Environment nurtures growth
- Children learn from one another
- Success breeds success
- Parental involvement is critical
- Encouragement is essential

The SECE classes contain a variety of nursery rhymes, children's songs, playing on simple instruments (such as percussion and Orff instruments), listening to music and other musical and artistic activities.

The SECE class activities work specifically on musical, motor, cognitive, and social skills.

KEY FEATURES OF SECE CLASSES ARE:

- Weekly group classes for children age 0 – 3 with their parent or caregiver, in mixed-age groups
- Team-taught by two teachers (with at least one trained SECE teacher)
- Teachers, children and parents or caregivers all interact actively in all class activities
- The Mother Tongue approach is also reflected in the use of a recording at home
- The preparatory aspect is not instrument-specific
- The classes follow a set lesson structure and a set repertoire according to a Syllabus*.

*Teacher training syllabi have been established for SAA, ESA, and PPSA. Teacher training has taken place in the ARSA region by trainers from PPSA and SAA. A set repertoire and format of delivery of the SECE curriculum is already widely and successfully used in teaching and training throughout ESA, ARSA and SAA and in parts of PPSA.