## Dear valued PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE family,

I am thrilled to share a wonderful (and free!) resource I have found for early childhood virtual music classes, both live and previously recorded. Clara D'Onofrio of *Ms. Clara's Mini Musicians* in Brookfield, IL (just outside of Chicago) has offered energetic, playful, interactive, and educational music classes to over 300 children a week for 10 years, and in light of recent events, she has transformed her temporarily-vacant music school into a green screen recording studio for her online classes.

Since her first Facebook Live videos aired on March 16th, she has accumulated over 12,000 views ranging from Chicago to California, and even on to England, France, Ireland, and Guatemala!

Pictures and testimonials started pouring in immediately:

"OMG!! Parker LOVES watching you!!! We're watching your classes OVER and OVER! He requests it by patting on his knees, and when I ask him 'do you want to watch Ms. Clara?' He goes NUTS! This has become part of our daily routine, and I have shared the videos with everyone I can think of. Thank you for doing this for these kiddos!" -Christine R., mom

"I finally got the dishes done without an interruption during these classes. You're my hero." -Teresa S., mom of 2

"Savannah and Miles were mesmerized with your two virtual classes, as was I! I have watched it twice myself, it was so good. You have a gift of combining fun movement and song with a peaceful, joyful essence. I could see you becoming the future Ms. Clara of the Music World. You're that gifted." -Sherry T., grandmother of 2

Ms. Clara contacted me and asked if I would be willing to help her spread the word about these free virtual classes and videos to our PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE community. After reviewing them online, it is my pleasure to invite you to tune in live on Monday mornings at 10:15 AM and 11:15 AM CDT, and also to view her previously recorded videos and live streams on her Facebook Page and YouTube channel.

While these live streams and videos are free and open to the public, Ms. Clara does ask for donations of *any* amount from families who enjoy and benefit from this online resource. **As a thank you to**PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE for helping parents discover her Facebook videos, she is sharing her net proceeds with us. Simply put PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE in the notes when you make a donation of any size, and 30% of your donations will go directly back to us at PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE. You can also invite friends and family all over the country to do the same!

We understand that these classes may not have "state of the art" animations, perfect camera angles, etc., but they feature extremely high-quality music and movement classes created by a small business owner who is 100% dedicated to keeping music in children's lives during these unexpected and indefinite closures. The songs and images are sure to spark your children's imaginations and engage them in a creative and educational virtual music class.

A special note from Ms. Clara: Whether in person or online, behind all of the fun, our "secret" goal is education and not simply entertainment. As the daughter of two symphony musicians and an honors graduate of Northwestern University's Master's Degree program in Marriage and Family Therapy, I combined my early childhood development background with my love of music and children to create a curriculum designed to target both musical and non-musical skills of infants and young children.

Over half of our 200+ song curriculum consists of **originals that I wrote with clear developmental milestones in mind**, and it is my honor and pleasure to explore the pure joys of making music with your children though my imaginative, organic, and skill-building classes.

We will be using instruments during our virtual classes, so now is the time to be creative! Find those wooden spoons or blocks for rhythm sticks, turn over a mixing bowl for a drum, fill those plastic eggs with rice (parent supervision required)...we got this!!

If you do happen to have instruments, we will be using some or all of the following:

Shaker eggs (2) Colorful scarves (2)

Rhythm sticks (2) Drum (1) Sand blocks (2) Triangle (1)

I can't wait to share my love of music with your little ones!

You can learn more about *Ms. Clara's Mini Musicians* on <u>Yelp, Facebook</u>, and their <u>website</u>. More personalized virtual classes are also available via Zoom, and <u>more information can be found here</u>.

This is such a wonderful way to help out your child's school as well as another small business during these unprecedented times. Thank you so much for supporting *PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE* and *Ms. Clara's Mini Musicians*! We're all in this together. Have fun!

Sincerely,

## YOUR NAME AND TITLE

