

SUZUKI PHILOSOPHY

The Suzuki philosophy is based on many well-established principles of learning and child development and is often referred to as the “mother tongue” method. This method was developed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, who is internationally known as the founder of the Talent Education Institute in Japan. Through many years of teaching thousands of young children to play classical violin, Dr. Suzuki developed a philosophy of education based upon the following observations:

- Children everywhere develop fluency and proficiency in the oral use of their native tongue at a very early age.
- The ability to speak is mastered through a natural process of replication.
- Talent is developed more spontaneously in the early years of a child’s life than after a child has matured.
- The first experience most children have with learning is in the home. The parents’ abilities to motivate an eagerness to learn are major factors in both how quickly a child learns, and whether the child sees learning as an enjoyable experience. Dr. Suzuki’s analysis of these observations, considered over many years, resulted in three principles for developing a child’s potential, and formed the basis of the Suzuki philosophy:
 - Good teachers at home and school, who apply a consistent message and method, provide a superior environment for learning.
 - The sense of satisfaction derived from the development of basic skills through reinforcement and consistent practice instills enthusiasm for learning in the young child.
 - Children should be provided at the earliest possible age with enriching educational experiences.

Dr. Suzuki contends that the main function of education is to develop an attitude of self-worth and independence in each human being. He calls this attitude a “Noble Heart.” By providing stimulation, encouragement and guidance in a setting charged with discovery and wonder, the creative potential of each child is consistently developed during the critical early years. The essence of the Suzuki philosophy is the belief that natural talent and ability can be fostered in any child through training and nurturing the natural growth processes. It then follows that true learning and skill development are best accomplished when a child’s interests, thoughts and ideas are consistently stimulated and reinforced by parents and teachers working together.