

OUR GUIDE



ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

VOLUME 4

01 - OUTDOOR SPACES

- Playgrounds
- Farms & Wildlife Centres
- Parks, Estates and Trails
- In Warmer Weather

02 - INDOOR SPACES

- Museums
- Burning off their energy

03 - IN AND AROUND LEYTONSTONE

- Birthday parties (Venue hire, entertainers, cakes)
- Local activities

04 - ESSEX DAYS OUT

05 - MORE ABOUT MUSICAL MINIATURES

MUSICAL
MINIATURES

MUSICAL
GIANTS

LEYTONSTONE
VOICES

As a Mum to three children 8 and under, I too know a lot about the ups and downs of parenting! Running *Musical Miniatures*, *Musical Giants* and *Leytonstone Voices* I find myself in the privileged position of knowing many local parents and their wonderful children. I have a real passion for supporting and helping others and get such fulfillment out of this through my work.

The thought behind 'Our Guide' is to provide quick access to information to help plan some great activities/days out. Whether you're a family who may be new to the area, new parents, or parents who just don't seem to have enough hours in the day, I hope you find the guide useful!

Disclaimer - Some places I've been to with my children, and some places have been recommended, so your feedback would be incredibly useful to enable me to keep the content up-to-date and current. If I have I missed a gem, then please let me know!

Finally if you'd like to hear anymore information about [Musical Miniatures classes](#), [Musical Giants](#), or [Leytonstone Voices](#), and for all of your advice and feedback about this guide, please drop me an e-mail at jenny@musicalminiatures.co.uk

Take Care,

Jenny



We have so many fantastic playgrounds near by, however, for anyone looking for something special further afield - why not check out:

[Princess Diana Memorial Playground](#) W2 4RU



1) OUTDOOR SPACES

1) PLAYGROUNDS

- **Tumbling bay playground** - Olympic Park Stratford - features rock pools, sand pits, tall treehouses, and wobbly bridges, as well as slides, swings and plenty of space to run about + there is a cafe!
- **Dames Road playground** - Dames Rd, E7 0DZ - right next to Jubilee Pond, great for feeding the birds.
- **Christ Church Green** (known to me as Wanstead playground) - Woodbine PI, E11 2RH - loads of lovely places to eat near by on Wanstead High Street
- **Henry Reynolds playground** - 2 Bushwood, E11 3AY - Under 7s and under 12s play areas, basketball post, Ornamental gardens.
- **Cann hall playground** - Cann Hall Rd, E11 3NN Five-a-side/kickabout area, floodlit skateboard park, under 7s and under 12s play areas and Patch Cafe.
- **Acacia Road Playground** - The Music Park - Under 5s play area close to [B-Tempted](#) for Gluten Free Cakes
- **Three mills playground** - E15 2RF
- **Victoria Park** - Grove Road, E3 5PE - We love this park! Playground, splash pool, nice cafes (The Hub, The Pavilion Café - does a great breakfast)
- **Drapers field** Temple Mills Lane, E15 2DD - skate/bike park
- **Langthorne Park** - Birch Grove, E11 4YG - Leytonstone Toy Library, amphitheatre, playground, outdoor gym, gardens and a pond! Close to [Gray](#) cafe for a little treat!
- **Leyton Jubilee Park** - Seymour Road, E10 7BL - pirate ship, outdoor gym, football pitches, basketball courts and KukooLaLa Cafe
- **Ravens Walk playground** - East Village, E20 1DQ - explore the many features of the metal orange loop such as a slide, bridge, central trampoline, bumpy path and hill.



Lee Valley Farm

Stubbins Hall Ln, Waltham Abbey EN9 2EF

Enjoy a fun and wild day of family fun including:

- Farmyard animals
- Farmyard Play area
- Birds of Prey
- Exotic Animals
- Hilltop Play area
- Critter Displays
- Seasonal events



City Farms

Get up close to farmyard animals, and see, smell and touch a range of vegetables...

- Hackney city farm - 1a Goldsmiths Row, London E2 8QA -
- Spitalfields city farm - Buxton St, London E1 5AR
- Ashlyn's Farm - Epping Rd, Epping CM16 6RZ (even has a farm shop and soft play!)

OUTDOOR SPACES

2) FARMS & WILDLIFE PARKS

Marsh Farm

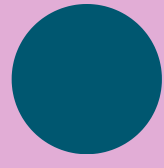
South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5WP

Go visit the adorable animals, go bananas on the adventure play, make a hole in one at our crazy golf course, go on our carousel & tea cup rides and going around on our bouncy pillows!

Paradise Wildlife Park

White Stubbs Ln, Broxbourne EN10 7QA

Whether you're after cats, large/small mammals, primates, reptiles, dinosaurs, adventure playgrounds, farm yards and even paddling pools, Paradise Wildlife Park has it all.



OUTDOOR SPACES



3) PARKS, ESTATES AND TRAILS

- [Lee Valley near whitewater centre](#) - outdoor playgrounds and trails - Station Rd, Waltham Cross, EN9 1AB
- [Epping Forest](#) - Steeped in history, full of character and jewelled with green spaces, every season offers fun to explore.
- [Hollow ponds](#) - incl rowing boats - Leyton Flats Whipps Cross Road, E11 1NP
- [Wanstead Flats](#) - a large area of open grassland perfect for sports, picnics and enjoying nature - enjoy a walk around Jubilee pond, or have some kid free time doing a park run
- [Wanstead park](#) - picnic at the water's edge, go on the circular chestnut trail, visit the temple visitors centre, fish at perch pond and don't miss the bluebells!!
- [East Ham nature reserve](#) - visit the visitors centre which often runs children's activities, hunt for bugs, spot birds, go in the St Mary Magdalene church and take some grave rubbings.
- [Walthamstow Wetlands](#) - lots of family friendly events, Engine House Café run by *The Larder*, and a shop - it is a fully operational 211 hectare Thames Water reservoir site and an internationally important nature reserve.
- [West Ham park \(incl splash pool and playground\)](#) - Discover the splendour and horticultural delights of the Ornamental Gardens, have fun in our playground and paddling pool, play football or cricket - or just watch our wildlife. There really is something for everyone!
- [Gruffalo trail Thornton country park](#) - Discover the magic of the deep dark wood with this self-led trail searching for the amazing hand crafted carvings of the Gruffalo characters. No booking required. Pathways are buggy friendly.
- [Greenwich Park](#) - Stand on the Prime Meridian, the reference point for Greenwich Mean Time. Follow in the footsteps of England's kings and queens with a walk through ancient tree avenues . Visit the tranquil Flower, Herb and Rose Gardens , explore the Park's wildlife or enjoy a snack at the Pavilion Café.
- [Hampstead Heath \(playground and splash pool\)](#) - This is the park that inspired C.S. Lewis to write The Chronicles of Narnia and that Constable spent his final years painting - and it's just at the end of the overland near Gospel Oak.
- [Dalston Eastern Curve gardens](#) - A lovely little outdoor space, the accessible Garden was planted in 2010 with wildlife-friendly trees and shrubs, there is a cafe on site, and a huge number of activities throughout the year. - 13 Dalston Lane, E8 3DF
- [Claybury Park](#) - The park is made up of extensive meadows, wildlife ponds, wetland areas, managed scrub land and many ancient/veteran trees - some great park trail activities for the kids (and grown ups!)
- [Stick man trail Essex](#) - The permanent trail is approximately 2km in length and consists of a number of climbing frames, slides, swings, Stick Man's family tree and a giant swan's nest.
- [Cudmore grove park Essex](#) - an amazing nature reserve on Mersea Island covering over 102 acres - It's the perfect place to paddle and picnic, birdwatch, beachcomb and let imaginations run wild with friends and family, there is also a kid's play area.
- [Forest Lane Park](#) - pond and carved animal trail - there's also a lake, dipping pond, raised bed garden area, a small orchard with pear and cherry trees, woodland to the east, and a wildflower meadow.
- [Peter rabbit woodland trail](#) - The trail is short enough for little legs and suitable for pushchairs. A variety of carved wooden characters are spaced out around the route and there are quiz sheets and guide maps available from the visitor centre.
- [Myddelton house gardens](#) - A botanical garden that is home to a host of rare and unusual plants and lost London treasures. There is also a visitors centre, museum and tea room
- [Wind in the willows trail](#) - This accessible trail at Hanningfield Reservoir consists of wooden sculptures of the most popular characters from the classic book - maps and crayons (for brass rubbings) available at the visitors centre.
- [Rain ham marshes](#) - Part of the Thames Estuary, it is a haven for all kinds of wildlife - birds, water voles, dragonflies and more. Enjoy an adventure into nature, whether you explore this medieval landscape on foot or by bike.
- [Belhus woods country park](#) - A great place to walk your dog, cycle, picnic by the lake, feed the ducks, go fishing or spot wildlife. There are many different activities throughout the year for families and nature enthusiasts alike - there is also a musical themed play area.
- [Valentines Park](#) - visit the mansion and gardens, two cafes, hire a boat on the lake, head to the ornamental garden and flower beds, or one of the two childrens play areas - Cranbrook Rd, Ilford IG1 4TG



Splash pools & Fountains

- [Barking splash pool](#) - April - September
- [Olympic Park water fountains](#) - March to October
- [Granary square fountains](#) - 'During the Summer months'
- [Royal docks paddling pool](#) - Runs during school holidays.
- [Fellowship Square & Fountains](#) - WF Town Hall - E17 4JF.
- [South Bank Fountains 'Appearing rooms'](#)
- [Elephant Springs](#) - Elephant & Castle
- [Parliament Hill](#) - Hampstead Heath



OUTDOOR SPACES

4) IN WARMER WEATHER

Fruit Picking

- [Cammass Hall](#) - June to October - pre-booking required - Hertfordshire CM22 7JT
- [Park Side Farm](#) - From June - Enfield EN2 8LA
- [Bloomfield Fruit Farm](#) - specialise in plums - Ongar CM5 0NB
- [Hawkswick Lodge Farm](#) - a bit further afield Hertfordshire AL3 6JG

[Lee Valley White Water Centre](#)



You'll find gallons of fun at Lee Valley White Water Centre, from white water rafting on the Olympic course to family paddling on the lake.

- Paddleboarding
- Rafting
- Kayaking
- Water Wipeout - An inflatable obstacle course on the lake! (Please note lots of the activities are for children 8+)

More outdoor fun

- [Up at the O2](#) - For children 9+ and at least 1.2m tall.
- [ArcelorMittal Orbit and slide](#) - For children 8+ at 1.3m in height to ride.
- [Lewis cubitt Park outdoor soft play](#) - At the outdoor snug, Kids can create dens, tunnels, obstacle courses, trampolines, rockets, houses - the possibilities are endless.



2) INDOOR SPACES

1) MUSEUMS



- [Young V&A](#) (Previously Museum of childhood) Bethnal Green - the UK's premier national museum designed by, and for, young people - a place where you can learn, create and debate together, and design for tomorrow. Imagine, Play and Design.



- [Postal museum](#) - Russell Square - WC1X 0DA Take a ride on Mail Rail and discover the inspiring stories of Britain's postal heritage. Ticket includes unlimited access to The Postal Museum for one year from the date of your visit and one ride on Mail Rail.



- [London docklands museum](#) - West India Quay E14 4AL - Discover how the docks shaped the city we know today - don't forget to book your free timed tickets to mudlarks, an interactive space for 0-8yos.



- [National Maritime museum](#) - Greenwich - Don't forget to book your free timed tickets to the Ahoy play centre - Polar exploration, pirates and a host of other maritime themes are brought to life in this playful and immersive gallery for under-7s.



- [London transport museum](#) - Covent Garden - Explore the heritage of London and its transport system, and the stories of the people who have travelled and worked in the city over the last 200 years, before taking a peek into how future technologies might impact London as we know it.



- [Museum of the home](#) (formally the Geffrye museum) Hoxton Station - visit the new Home Galleries, Rooms Through Time, replanted gardens and an exciting events and exhibitions programme - their explorer bags are packed with playful, sensory items great for exploring the galleries.



- [National army museum](#) - Chelsea - There is loads on offer for families, don't forget to check out the play base, an immersive experience for under 8s offering a variety of fun and engaging activities including a softplay.



- [William Morris gallery](#) - Walthamstow - Play, make and get hands on with Creative Kids - session for under fives.



- [The Horniman Museum & Gardens](#) - Forest Hill - SE23 3PQ - The majority of the Horniman is free to enter. We particularly like their Nature base, but there are also lots of fantastic exhibitions on offer, plus they have a butterfly house and aquarium

We are so fortunate in London to have such a huge number of museums at our fingertips.

Don't forget the big ones:

- [Science Museum](#)
- [Natural History Museum](#)
- [V&A](#)
- [Tate Modern](#)
- [Museum of London](#)
- [British Museum](#)



Fancy travelling further afield?

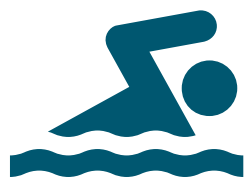
[RAF Museum](#) - NW9 5LL - We had a fabulous family day at the RAF Museum London for our daughters 2nd birthday. Climb inside a Spitfire Mk XVI and take the pilot's seat to discover what it was like to fly this iconic aircraft, or have a go in one of the museum's many simulators. They also have an outdoor play area and several trails and activities for families to enjoy as you explore the hangars.



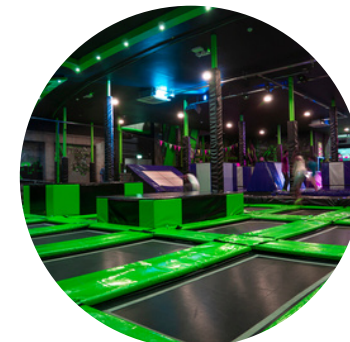
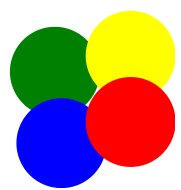
INDOOR SPACES

2) BURNING OFF THEIR ENERGY

Swimming and Soft Plays



- Aquatics centre at Olympic Park E20 2ZQ -
- Leyton leisure centre E10 5AB - Amazing slides!
- Atherton soft play and swimming E15 4JF
- Leytonstone Leisure Centre - soft play & Swimming E11 4LA
- East Ham Leisure Centre - soft play & Swimming E6 2RT
- Noah's ark Ball Park RM8 3LJ
- Under 1 roof (soft play) SE18 6SR
- Owls Softplay IG6 3HN
- Kids Space RM1 1AU
- Cookie's Island E6 7ER
- Big Little Fun SE8 3BU
- Flip out trampoline park E6 1LB
- Barking Trampoline Park RM8 2JR



Cycling



- Lee Valley Velo Park - cycling lessons and BMX tracks



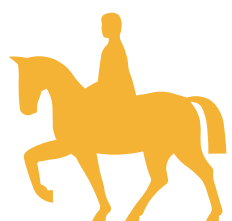
Ice skating



- Sapphire Ice and Leisure (Romford)
- Lee Valley Ice Centre



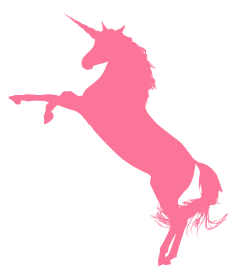
Horse riding



- Lee Valley Riding centre
- Aldersbrook riding school



Imaginative Play



- Discover children's story centre E15 4QZ
- Squish space at the Barbican EC2Y 8DS
- Role2play E17 4EZ



Messy/Art/Creative Play

- The Can Club - Forest Gate



Alexandra palace - N22 7AY - Alive with activity for all the family - From high-octane zipwires and fitness classes to more sedate pedalos and pitch & putt - there's something for everyone. Why not make a day of it?

4) IN AND AROUND LEYTONSTONE

Planning a local birthday party? I thought this list may help get you started. If there is anyone amazing you think I have missed off, then do let me know...

HALL HIRES

Epicentre Community Centre -
41 West St, London E11 4LJ
020 8539 2432



Leytonstone Methodist Church -
578 High Rd Leytonstone, E11 3DA
020 8558 7645

The Social (Ex Servicemen's Club)
Harvey Rd, Bushwood, London E11 3DB
020 8539 2954

St John's Hall
825 High Rd Leytonstone, E11 1HH
020 3773 2852



George Tomlinson School
1 Harrington Road, Leytonstone, E11 4QN
03330 110476

Leytonstone Toy Library
Birch Grove, Leytonstone, E11 4YG



X7eaven
Nexus Centre, 3 Snowberry Close, E15 2AH
020 8221 1000 or 07738 559 894.

ENTERTAINERS

Bouncy Castle/soft play Hire -
Benji Bounce - 07507303229
info@benjibounce.co.uk

Face painter -
Firebird Face paints - Sarah -
sarahharam@live.co.uk

Magician/Illusionist
Jasmine's magic parties - 07870-215675
jasmine@jasminesmagicparties.co.uk
Gilbert Giggles - 07939091493
gilbert@gilbertgiggles.co.uk

Baby parties -
Baby Sensory - Sara Marchesi -
07506 020039 (1st birthdays only)

Music/Story Entertainer -
Young Folkies - Marissa - 07588 011691
Boggle Beats - Jodie - 07711 030888
Loopy Lou - Sarah - 07702036833
Magic Box - Lottie - 07958 772669
Little Boo Stories - 07791 455907

Get Them moving -
Wee Movers - Fiona - 07950105317

CAKES!

East London Vegan Baker
Peka Plant Based
Herons Nest Cakes
The Wild Goose



Have you come across Re-party? - It's a party tableware company - reduce/reuse/recycle - Do check them out on Instagram by clicking [here](#).

Not listed and want to be? Get in touch

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Borough Run Activities:

The Lloyd Park Children's Charity - Weekly Timetable - Free - £1.50

Chit-Chat Pitter-Pat Stories and Songs WF Libraries - Wed/Thurs - Free

Stay and Plays: (TT=Term time only)

Lea Bridge library - Free - Mon 11:00-12:00 & Wed 10:00-12:00

Hey Baby Leyton Church (TT) - Free - Mon 10-11.45

George Tomlinson (TT) - Free - Tues 09:00-10:30

Broadmead Baptist Church (TT) - £1.50 - Tues 10-11.30

The Castle Stay and Play - Leyton - £5 - Tues 10-11 or 11-12

Ronald Openshaw (TT) - £1 - Tues 9-11 and 12:30-2:30

Acacia Nursery (TT) - £1 - Tues/Wed/Fri 9.30-11.30am

Christ Church C of E Francis Road (TT) - Free - Tues/Thurs 9:15-11:15

Davies Lane (TT) - £1 - Wed - 9.40-11.30 & 1.30pm-3.15pm

Hainault Road Baptist Church Hall (TT) - Thurs 9:30-11:30

Cheeky Monkeys St John's Leytonstone (TT) - £1 Thurs 10-11.30

Little Fishes St John's Church Hall Buckhurst Hill (TT) - Thurs 10-11:30

Parent and Baby Meet Ups:

Parent and Baby meet up Patchworks - Free - Tues 11am

Sing-a-long in the garden - Kukoo Lala Cafe - Free - Tues/Fri

Obviously I'd love it if everyone came to my classes - but I also love supporting my fellow practitioners, and there are some fantastic activity providers out there who deserve a shout out! I have focused on small independent companies like mine, and loosely grouped them in age categories - though most cover the next age range up...

BABIES



Mummy and Me



TODDLERS

PRE SCHOOL +



Mary Dunne



Sensei Patricia Duggin



GROWN UPS!



4) ESSEX DAYS OUT

- [Audley end house and gardens](#) - English Heritage - Whether you're exploring the servant's wing, state rooms, stables, kitchen garden or beautiful grounds, you'll discover how a what life was like above and below stairs at a Victorian country house - Saffron Walden CB11 4JF
- [Audley end railway](#) - Hunt for fairies and elves, spot the teddies that live in the woods when on your train ride, enjoy a range of seasonal events throughout the year. We have loved days out at Audley End Railway - Saffron Walden CB11 4JB
- [Colchester zoo](#) - you'll visit many different habitats, from the humid home of their Komodo Dragons to their very own Africa plain, Kingdom of the Wild, home to white rhino, giraffes, ostrich, zebra and kudu - CO3 0SL
- [Epping Ongar railway](#) - Step back in time with us and experience the romance of travel in bygone times as you pass through picturesque countryside, beautiful forest and historic towns - CM5 9BN
- [Great Notley country park](#) - Home to Essex's longest play trail and Sky Ropes, Great Notley Country Park offers the perfect family day out - CM77 7FS
- [Hainault Forest](#) - This ancient woodland is home to a wealth of wildlife and plant species, and was once a royal hunting forest, providing venison for the king's table.
- [Hatfield Forest](#) - National Trust - Whether it be just letting off steam running around under the trees, building dens, or exploring the further reaches on foot or by bike, there is lots for the family to enjoy - CM22 6NE
- [Hylands Estate](#) - As well as the house, the grounds, the stables, cafe, gardens and horses, Hylands Estate is home to an award-winning accessible castle-themed adventure playground. CM2 8FS
- [Imperial bird of prey academy](#) - The Imperial bird of prey academy is the number one falconry and bird of prey centre in Essex and provides exceptional experiences days with owls and birds of prey - CM11 2UD
- [Montfichet castle](#) - Come and mingle with the animals that roam freely throughout the castle grounds and experience life as it was in 1066. Don't forget to visit The House on the Hill Museum which contains the largest toy collection in the world with over 80,000 toys - CM24 8SP
- [Old Macdonalds farm park](#) - There is so much to do at this farm - the list of animals and rides/activities is huge and far to long for this guide. An action packed day out! CM14 5AY
- [RHS Hyde Hall](#) - Enjoy a day out at the Beautiful RHS Garden Hyde Hall in Chelmsford, Essex. Join in the fun with all year round events. Free to RHS Members - CM3 8ET
- [Wat Tyler country park](#) - Lots of families, with children's woodland adventure parties, pond dipping with wildlife experts and Wat Tyler's explosive past! SS16 4UH

Essex Beaches -

- [Brightlingsea](#) - A quieter alternative to Clacton & Southend.
- [Clacton on sea](#) - Boasts an array of entertainment facilities including a pleasure pier and arcades, also has an eclectic annual events programme
- [Dovercourt beach](#) - A peaceful beach with gentle shelving sand & shingle beaches
- [Frinton beach](#) - A quiet family beach destination
- [Southend on sea](#) - seven miles of coastline - award-winning beaches and family attractions from the world famous Pier and its mile long railway, Adventure Island fun park, Sealife Adventure, amusement arcades and the popular fountains on City Beach.



0-5yr olds with adults
Thurs & Fri am @ Leytonstone
Methodist Church



4-7yr olds without adults
Thurs pm @ Leytonstone
Methodist Church



Adult Community Choir
Thurs @ 20:00 @Leytonstone
Ex-servicemen's club



JOIN US

Musical fun in
Leytonstone



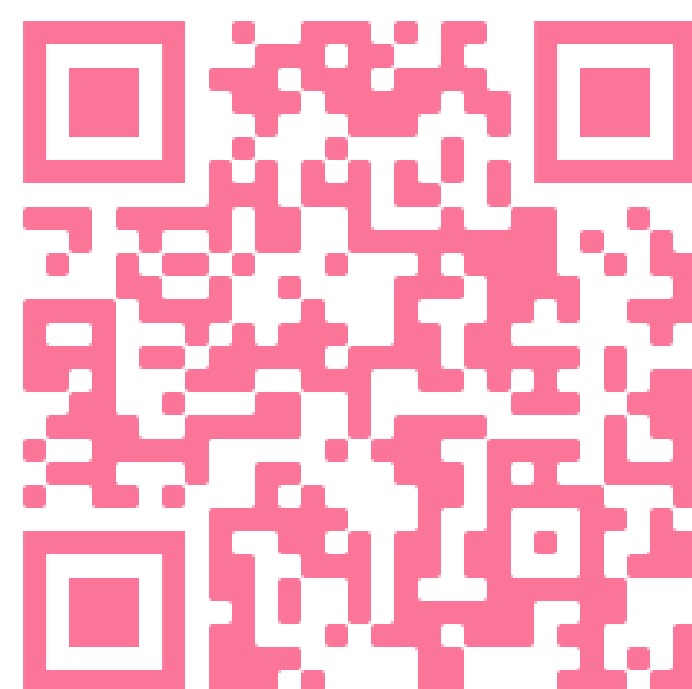
We're also online!



@musicalminiatures
@leytonstonevoices
www.musicalminiatures.co.uk

SCAN ME

SCAN ME





MUSICAL GIANTS

For children aged 4-7yrs

Looking for a fun, educational after school club that will help to build your child's confidence, develop their singing voices, their ear training, and understanding of the building blocks of music? Run by Jenny, a qualified Music teacher, and founder of *Musical Miniatures* - Musical Giants could be just what you are looking for...

Dalcroze

Kodály Method



Fun atmosphere
Child-centred approach

Qualified Music Teacher

"It's brilliant fun my child looks forward to the class every week, I would highly recommend these classes" (Parent)

Leytonstone Methodist Church, E11 3DA
Thursdays at 15:45 and 16:40

www.musicalminiatures.co.uk/musical-giants

Limited spaces





MUSICAL MINIATURES

Music classes for 0-5 year olds

"The absolute best class for babies, toddlers and preschoolers... Jenny has crafted a class that all ages can enjoy which is such a skill"

Mixed aged classes

"It was the nicest class I think I've ever done and after nearly 3 years of being a full time parent, I've done a lot!"

"Jenny is so welcoming and makes it easy to walk into a new class alone."

"Jenny's approach is gentle, empowering and inclusive which is of high importance to our neurodivergent family"

Fun, inclusive atmosphere

"The perfect balance of engaging, fun, approachable and calm. She includes the children's suggestions and energy... lets them move freely, somehow avoiding chaos and overwhelm"

Leytonstone Methodist Church,

1 Lister Road, E11 3DA

Thursdays and Fridays

www.musicalminiatures.co.uk



Live Music

Welcoming



THAT'S IT FOR NOW

'Our Guide' is a working document and many voices and opinions are going to help to keep the content up-to-date and relevant.

Have you attended something amazing that isn't featured that you think other families would enjoy? Do you have any thoughts on how the guide could be improved?

Any feedback hugely welcome - please e-mail me at:
jenny@musicalminiatures.co.uk and include 'Our Guide' in the Subject Box.