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A NOTE ABOUT SIBLINGS:

Having the entire family involved in music is a wonderful thing. Your home environment becomes filled with music and joy!

However, there are things that need to be considered carefully when siblings are engaged in music lessons.

When siblings start lessons at the same time, the younger one(s) may push to keep up with the older one(s). But younger children may need more time to develop the same skills. If a younger sibling rushes to keep up with the older, they may never feel secure with the foundation of their playing, and need to do remedial work later, which is frustrating.

When a younger sibling starts lessons after an older one has been playing for a while, the younger one has the advantage of all the listening and observation of the older child's progress. This gives the younger one a considerable head start, and the younger may actually go faster than the older one through the beginning stages. If they are close in age, there is a possibility that the younger may catch up or surpass the older one, and that could create a sibling rivalry problem.

Now I know of many families who have multiple siblings all playing the same instrument, and it all works out well for everyone. And I know of families who have observed their children carefully and determined that, due to personality types, learning styles, and age difference, that having the children play different instruments will make things run more smoothly for the family.

So I strongly suggest that you consider these issues and make sure that both siblings get to observe all the instruments offered in the program before making a final decision about which instrument to play. You can still have the convenience of going to the same teacher if you choose instruments that are related but different, such as flute and recorder, or violin and viola. Many teachers teach both instruments, but the tone and the repertoire are just different enough to avoid competitive comparisons.

Part of your registration includes an interview with the ESFRS Music Program Director. This gives us an opportunity to discuss these issues more specifically in relation to your children. If you are registering a second sibling after being in the program for a while, please take advantage of the observation and interview opportunities again for the second child. Send me an email at [sukifluteandrecorder@gmail.com](mailto:szukifluteandrecorder@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.

You may also take Every Child Can! again, as many times as you like, for no additional charge. The beginner fee is per family, not per child, so it covers you for as many children as you would like to register for the program. Just make sure you register to reserve your space in the class of your choice at this link: <http://fluteplayer.ca/teacher-trainer/every-child-can/>

Musically yours,

Kathleen Schoen
Music Program Director, ESFRS