



Episode 2 Turning *Little Stones* show notes  
Listen to a conversation about their musical  
adventures with one year old Josiah.

PART 1  
Musical Adventures  
with Hannah and Jonny

Hannah and Jonny are both gifted and experienced musicians. Hannah has performed in musical theatre for over 10 years. Now she teaches singing and piano. Jonny has a degree in music and spent years composing for TV shows and adverts. Now he works as a music teacher.

Their training and interests have both influenced their young child's exposure to music. And they are more likely to be acutely aware of his musicality and development.

Our 2-part conversation really gives us an insight into the fascinating world of young children from a musical perspective.

### How do our youngest babies show us that they 'love music'?

Babies respond to their carers' physical movements (rocking) and soothing sounds (singing)

...

Theorists would say that all children are born musical. Hannah and Jonny certainly noticed how their baby "responded to music from day dot".

Of course, he had already experienced music through all the months when Hannah carried him. Even in her womb, she noticed how he seemed to respond to certain music. He would be familiar with Hannah singing and both parents playing their instruments before his birth.

And Hannah and Jonny noticed immediately how their tiny newborn baby responded musically:

He moved his whole body in response to some familiar sounds and beats.

He become absorbed or stimulated by certain songs and music.

He explored his voice by beginning to make musical noises and syllable sounds.

They realised how music helped to regulate him emotionally or physically. Music and singing helped calm him at key times, such as nappy changes and bath times.

### Types of music and changing voice patterns

Josiah experienced a wide range of musical styles.... Jonny's compositions, classical music, musical theatre songs... This breadth is important.

Jonny adds that classical music is particularly beneficial. The neural pathways so vital to the young child's development are significantly supported through listening to classical music.

Hannah and Jonny agree that music has influenced Josiah's social development. He copied mouthing expressions, which aided his communication and "made him more joyful!"

Josiah barely uses his dummy, "only at bedtime really". This too will have helped him copy and coordinate his own mouth movements and make sounds.

Hannah reminded Jonny of how his relationship and connection with his baby son transformed when she advised him to raise the pitch of his voice. When he began to sing



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and talk in a higher pitch, Josiah immediately responded to his dad differently... "like a switch".

### Noticing some changes (3 to 10 months)

Hannah and Jonny began to notice how Josiah was beginning to show some musical independence from this age.

As well as imitating and copying, he began to vocalise more freely. He began to respond to some songs he knows well (bouncing to The Sailor's Hornpipe). He also began to reproduce sounds that were familiar (Matching the note of "you" to Hannah's "I love you!" – C-E-G).

Josiah began to be more intentional with his sound-making toys.

Hannah and Jonny found that he was beginning to initiate some musical games...And they in turn began to *consciously respond* to his musical initiatives. This meant noticing and responding to his lead, following his cues and mimicking his rhythms...

They allowed him to use certain objects to use as sound-makers (pots, pans, shakers...)

They noticed how he used toys... stacking beakers were used to make sound rather than for their intended purpose. They played music games on the furniture (patting, scratching or stroking the sofa to create different sounds)

And they used loads of musical expression when out and about or reading stories and rhymes

### Toys and resources

Surprisingly, Hannah and Jonny do not have a massive array of musical toys... just a few maracas, homemade shakers, a xylophone, a foil blanket (which they discovered could be used to contrast loud and quiet sounds)

"it's about finding games with what we have"

And books... books with rhyme, books read expressively... all feed children's musicality.

More in part 2!

*Further information, practical guidance and advice are available through*

*Turning Little Stones*

***Delving a little Deeper***

*See website for details.*