

# Karen Haack (2014)



Karen Haack describes herself as “the perfect example of someone who found a job she loves, and just keeps doing it!” Combining her love of children and music, Karen has spent more than 30 years introducing the tiniest pre-schoolers to musical instruments, song and movement to music, and sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm by teaching and mentoring other teachers. She feels strongly that music is for everyone, and that everyone can make music.

As a teenager, Karen was a piano student of Lyell Gustin, one of Canada's leading 20th century piano pedagogues. Karen holds degrees in education and music from the University of Saskatchewan and McGill University, and she has participated in post-graduate training in a plethora of music education systems including Orff, Kodaly, Suzuki, Montessori, Education through Music, Kindermusik, Musikgarten and Music together.

Karen pioneered Early Childhood Education music classes in Guelph, during her many years with Guelph Orff Music Studio. She has given in-service workshops, and teacher training workshops to preschool/daycare teachers, to JK/SK teachers, and in neighbourhood centres and libraries. she developed the Rhythmic Reading programme for the Suzuki String School of Guelph, and was a teaching staff member of the annual Southern Ontario Suzuki Institute for many years. In 2012, Karen became officially a part of the Suzuki String School of Guelph, introducing the Orff-Suzuki Music Moves programme (which continued until 2017).

Karen’s life-long dedication to music for the very young has enhanced the lives of hundreds of Guelph and area children and their families. Her earliest students are now bringing their own children to her classes. There could be no greater tribute to Karen's musical contribution.