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Seeing Eye to Eye: How We Teach Neurodivergent Families

Author: [Kathleen Carrington](#)

Editor: [Danette Warren](#)

Supporting Neurodiverse Children in Suzuki Lessons

At our Suzuki studio, we recognize that many children learn and process the world differently — and that's perfectly normal. Neurodiversity includes things like ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and sensory processing differences, and it's more common than many people realize. This means Suzuki teachers and parents will naturally work with neurodiverse children, and with understanding and flexibility, these students can truly thrive.

Eye Contact Isn't the Only Way to Listen

Some children find direct eye contact uncomfortable or distracting. Instead of insisting on it, we focus on other signs of attention and understanding — such as watching their hands, bow, or instrument. What matters most is how well your child understands and demonstrates what they are learning.

The Power of Positive Encouragement

Kind, specific praise is at the heart of Suzuki teaching. Rather than a simple “good job,” we look for meaningful moments to celebrate — careful listening, improved rhythm, kinder behavior, or focused

Strengths First

We build on what your child does well and use those strengths to support growth in more challenging areas. This approach helps children feel confident, motivated, and eager to learn.

Gentle, Respectful Teaching

Inspired by Suzuki Early Childhood Education (SECE), we introduce skills in a calm, joyful, and never-forced way. Children move at their own pace and feel safe exploring music with the support of their caregiver.

Teaching Social Skills Too

Some children need clear, kind guidance for both musical and social behaviors. We gently explain expectations and help them recognize feelings like frustration, offering tools to manage emotions in healthy ways.

Many Ways to Learn

Children learn differently! We present concepts through sound, movement, visual cues, and hands-on guidance so every child has the best chance to understand and succeed.

Physical Considerations

Some neurodiverse children may also have very flexible joints. We stay aware of this and adjust technique and strengthening exercises to keep playing safe and comfortable.

Keep Going — You're Not Alone

Suzuki learning is a journey. With patience, understanding, and the right tools, all children can grow musically and emotionally. By staying open to different learning styles and needs, we create a welcoming space where every child can shine.

This special newsletter is usually just for our paid STXSA Family and Teacher Members — but we're so grateful for our Suzuki community that for the month of January, we're sharing it with everyone on our mailing list!

If you'd like to keep receiving these updates, [renew your membership today](#) and stay connected with all the exciting events and opportunities coming up.

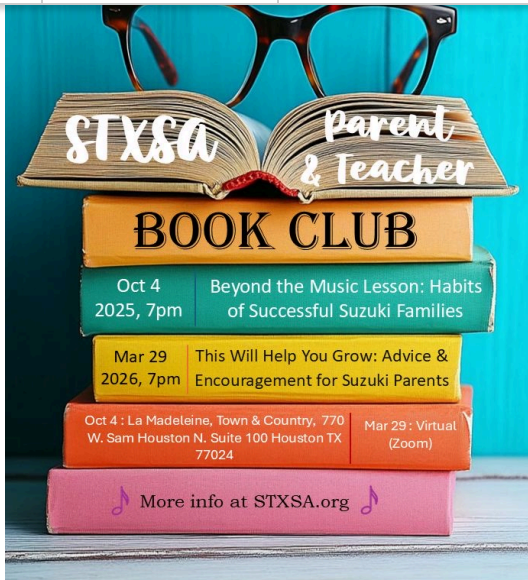
Huang, and James Dunham. Katie previously played in the Louisiana Philharmonic as well as Principal Viola in the Breckenridge Music Festival. She currently serves as Principal Viola in the Mercury Chamber Orchestra and as the violist of the Axiom Quartet. In addition to her performing career, she enjoys a rewarding teaching career that fulfills her passion for sharing music with children. She previously served as Artistic Director of the Greater New Orleans Suzuki Forum. She currently is on the Board of the Southeast Texas Suzuki Association as well as working with the Houston Youth Symphony and Mercury Chamber Orchestra's educational programs. She maintains a private Suzuki Studio in Houston as well being a Suzuki practice parent.



Suzuki Graduation 2026! Apply now to insure you have plenty of time to make your recordings.

www.stxsa.org/graduation

Watch your email - STXSA Spring Fling information and registration link coming to your inbox soon!



Have you purchased the book yet? It's time to start reading...

[This Will Help You Grow: Advice & Encouragement for Suzuki Parents](#)

by [Brittany P. Gardner](#)

[Books available here](#)

See you on March 29, 2026!

Resources

[STXSA Parent Corner Newsletter Archives](#)

[Southeast Texas Suzuki Association](#)

[Suzuki Association of the Americas](#)

[International Suzuki Association](#)

Questions? Suggestions? [CLICK HERE](#)



February 2 - Summer Institute Scholarship Deadline

February 21 - Spring String Fling

March 23 - Graduation Recording Deadline

March 29 - Parent & Teacher Book Club

April 11 - Ribbon Festival

April 16 - Parent Night Online #2

May 2 - Graduation Concert

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