

MAKE YOUR OWN KIND OF FUN

by MELISSA LEVIS,
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When I grew up, there was no internet, no cable, no iPod, and no Wii. To entertain ourselves, my sister and I put on shows in the living room with our friends. Together we made up songs, dances, and costumes. These productions were my bedrock, not only as source material for future Ivy League college essays and my career as Mommy Rocker, but for a lifetime appreciation of music and self-expression.

Parents don't need to buy a Steinway

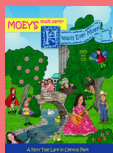
the exuberance and delight of musical play. Imagination cannot be bought, but it can be fostered and nurtured. Parents don't need to buy a Steinway – there is an orchestra in their kitchen. Chinese takeout containers can double as drums. Coffee beans inside an empty bottle can be a homemade maraca that kids can personalize with stickers and art.

It is beneficial (and fun) to provide all children with a living room where they experience

Parents can empower their children with a sense of transformation and wonder that comes from playing dress up. A scarf can be a pirate hat, a cowboy bandana, a super hero cape, or a princess gown. When acting out fairy tales, the ugly duckling's yellow wings can be transformed into Goldilock's golden tresses.

My mom gave her love of music to me and now I'm the Pied Piper in Pink, spreading this message of musical magical pixie dust throughout NYC. Let kids make up songs, make up costumes, make up plays, and make up dances. These are the ingredients that help make up a wonderful life.

There is an orchestra in their kitchen.



Melissa Levis is the creator of Moey's Music Party. Moey @ Citibabes classes will be available fall 2011. Her new DVD/CD, Happily Ever Moey! A Fairy Tale Lark in Central Park won a 2011 Parents' Choice Award. MoeyMusicParty.com