

June 5, 2005

Dear Vilma,

I am writing you this letter to express my deepest gratitude for all you've done for my children. We started your class on the recommendation of Matthew's speech therapist. Having a severe speech delay, she thought he would respond well to music. After being in your class the first few times, I really didn't think he was getting a lot out of it. He would sit quietly and just observe the class and not participate. Emily on the other hand, loved it from the start. I didn't think she would take such an interest being that she was older but I was wrong. She asked me to play the music you gave us at home. When I did, To my surprise, Matthew did everything as if he were right there in class. He danced, and he sang for the first time ever in his life. I took the music into the car to play and we listen to it everyday. As soon as I strap Matthew into his car seat he is asking, well kind of screaming for me to put the music on and when I do, he goes wild. Emily sings along with him. That makes him so happy. He wants the tape played over and over again. He never gets tired of it. At home whenever he is in "time out", he sits with his legs crossed, slapping his knees singing the Hello song. He calls out your name and the other children in the class. He is comforting himself with your music! When I put him in his crib to sleep, instead of crying, I hear him singing the Goodbye song to all of us in our family. This is all from a child who barely said a word. Your music has opened up a door for him. Your class has given Emily something special to share with her brother, a love of music. When they are at home and your music is on, they both come alive and play in harmony. As a mother, that is wonderful to see and is a memory I'll treasure. We've had a piano sitting in our living room for two years now. No one ever touches it. One day Matthew sits down at the piano and starts playing and he's imitating the sounds you make at the end of the Hello song. It was incredible to see. Although Matthew still has a delay, your class has made him progress rapidly. He has made new friends and is continually learning to share and interact with other children through music and play. I also love that you don't confine the children and let them be free to be themselves and progress socially at their own pace. Vilma, we love you and can't thank you enough. You are a beautiful person and have become family to us. You have been a blessing in our life. Thank you for a great first year!

Love, Joanne, Nick, Matthew and Emily