

**PERSONAL BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS MUSIC TRAINING FOR YOUNG  
CHILDREN: PERSPECTIVES OF CHINESE PARENTS IN MALAYSIA**

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## **Declaration of Authorship**

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own work and that all sources have been acknowledged.



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## Abstract

This study was designed to describe the background and musical experiences of Chinese parents who send their children to private music lessons, the extent of Chinese parents' support and involvement in their children's music learning and to investigate the factors that influenced Chinese parents' support for music education and their perceptions on the benefits of music training. A total of eight Chinese parents who send their children to private music lessons participated in this study and were interviewed based on 33 interview questions. Results indicated that overall, Chinese parents in the study had positive attitudes towards their children learning music and were prepared to provide financial and emotional support as well as time and energy for their children to learn music privately outside of school. Parents think that music could give a lot of benefits to their children. In addition Chinese parents in general are more open to accepting music education as they believe that there are many benefits to learning music. Their beliefs about the positiveness of music education and the effects music has on children have made them more motivated to commit to providing their children with musical experiences. Chinese parent's explained that philosophy of life teaches them how to face realities of life and they also considered that education is very important to live. Overall, the researcher concludes that Malaysian Chinese parents similar to Chinese parents in other parts of the world do have positive attitudes and perceptions towards music education. They do tend to perceive music learning as an opportunity that all children should not miss in their childhood. The reason why is because music is valuable for character building and development of children cognitive, affective and psychomotor abilities since music instruments also cost quite expensive.

## Table of Contents

	Page
AFFIDAVIT.....	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
CHAPTER	
1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	
Introduction.....	1
Statement of the Problem.....	5
Objectives of the Study.....	6
Research Questions.....	7
Significance of the Study.....	7
Limitations of the Study.....	8
Organization of the Study.....	8
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	
Introduction.....	9
Chinese Philosophies.....	9
Chinese Belief Systems.....	13
Chinese Parents and Education.....	15
Chinese Parents Perceptions towards Children Learning Music.....	16
Music Education Benefits Children Development.....	19