

the  
**CHILDBLOOM GUITAR PROGRAM<sup>®</sup>**  
of Sioux Falls

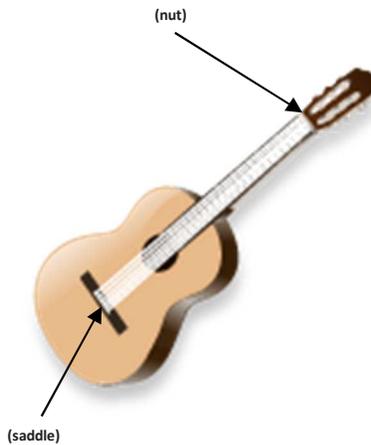
*Here are some important guidelines to have in-hand when making your guitar purchase/rental for your new Childbloom Guitar student. Please print this out and take with you to the store to share with your salesperson*

### Instrument Purchase Guidelines

To avoid injury and to develop the highest skill technique it is important to **get a guitar that is appropriately-sized for your child**. Never treat the purchase of a guitar like purchasing a pair of shoes - an item we typically buy with "room to grow into." A guitar which is too large for the child can create discomfort, or even more serious pain or other chronic issues with regards to playing. In fact, if you must err on the side of a guitar being large or small to the child, purchase the smaller guitar!

In addition, the instrument should be a **nylon-string ("classic" style) guitar** for the beginner's maximum success. The critical dimension is the length, not width of the guitar. Here is a suggested size according to the general age of a child, but consult with your salesperson to be more certain. Examples in the following examples given are "playable string lengths" (distance from the saddle to the nut):

**Age 4 - 6: under 18" • Age 6 - 8: under 21" • Age 8 - 10: under 23" • Age 10 - 12: under 25"**



Child, from floor to belly button	Guitar scale length
24 inches	40 cm (15.75 inches)
26 inches	45 cm (17.72 inches)
28.5 inches	50 cm (19.69 inches)
33.5 inches	55 cm (21.65 inches)
35.5 inches	60 cm (23.62 inches)
36.75 inches	63 cm (24.80 inches)
higher	full-size (65 cm)

The best quality retail brand available locally is Cordoba. Other acceptable brands carried by local stores include *Yamaha, Jasmine, and Hohner*. Your salesperson might have some other recommendations but please indicate you desire a good quality classical nylon stringed guitar that is sized appropriately per the above guidelines. Please avoid the brands found at most area department and toy stores - these are by in large quite unacceptable.

**Sioux Falls stores** currently carrying some of these particular instruments include:

- Sioux Falls Music (605-334-5361), 1209 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street
- Schmitt Music (605-339-6030), 1020 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street
- K&M Music (605-336-6332), 1119 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street
- Guitar Center (605-361-5369), 3709 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street

For very small guitars (smaller children age 4-6) you may need to look on the internet. Small scale Strunal guitars are available at [www.meantone.com](http://www.meantone.com).