

Music for Early Childhood



UNDER THE SEA!

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Orff Principles and Techniques Used:

MOVEMENT, SINGING, ECHO, IMPROVISATION, CREATIVITY, INSTRUMENTS

Themes are a great way to introduce music to children...and what better way in Term One, after the holidays, than to use the sea as a stimulus.

Here are a few ideas you could use as a starter! I am sure you will think of many, many more.

Lesson Ideas:

SING!

There are a number of songs about the sea. My children particularly love 'Here is the Sea'

Here is the Sea

Here is the sea the wavy sea Here is a
11 boat and here is me And all the fishes
21 way down below Wiggle their
27 tails and away they go.

Actions accompany this song.

"Here is the sea the wavy sea" - arms moving in wave motions.

Here is the boat - cupped hand

Here is me - finger with a face drawn on it next to boat

And all the fishes - fingers break away and wiggle, moving down and around

Wiggle their tails and away they go" - hands join and form a tail and swim away behind backs.

This song also is appropriate for music making and moving.

Have a selection of softer instruments for children to choose from and say the words slowly whilst children experiment with sounds for each line. Decide who will play and the others choose a scarf and become either the waves (blue cloths) the seaweed (/yellow/green) or fish (any others) Perform. Swap so that each child has a turn of playing and moving if they choose to.

This is a beautiful performance item for an assembly. Begin saying, then singing, then playing and moving with scarves together to show under the sea.

Another favourite is this one sung to me by a Kindergarten child on the playground one day.

I'm a Little Fishy (tune: I'm a Little Teapot)

I can swim Here is my tail, here is my fin

When I want to have fun with my friends

I wiggle my tail and I dive right in

SAY!

Here is a quick game that I watched my own child play for many years at a Beach Mission on the South Coast. I suddenly remembered it one rainy afternoon in Year One

I have named it BARNACLE!

First teach this chant by echo.

"Fishes in the ocean

Fishes in the Sea

Choose which fish that

You will be!"

Now explain the game

At the end of the chant the teacher (later a student once the game is known) turns her back and counts to 5 out loud. Whilst this is happening each child chooses which fish they will be and makes the appropriate shape and freezes.

There are three options for this movement game.

You can choose to be a:

- ♪ Swordfish – hands straight up above the head, hands clasped.
- ♪ Pufferfish – knees bent, hands down by side in a rounded shape, cheeks puffed out
- ♪ Starfish – star jump position

The teacher then turns around and as she turns calls one kind of fish. If you are in the shape of that fish you sit down and begin chanting and the game begins again until there is one fish left who gets a “fishy clap” and then we start again!

This has proved so popular that children play it on the playground!!! They love it!!!

(There is also a Jungle version! Email me if you'd like a copy! Or create your own)

LISTEN!

My music program always has a listening time each week, so I can expose children to the wonderful world of classical music which is so often forgotten. I provided each child with a “Sea” book (blue A5 pages stapled together). Some pages were blank so the children could draw what the music made them think of. Some pages had a fish at the bottom left side and with stickers they showed the high and lows of the music in “bubbles” (circle dot stickers) Some had a ship in the top left corner so they could show lines the ships journey through the waves.

I used various pieces of music including some from The Little Mermaid (Disney) and a Sailors Jig. I also used other ocean pieces from a cd I had of sounds of nature etc.

DANCE!

Here is another one taught to me by my Kinders.

Fishy Pokey (Tune: The Hokey Pokey)

Put your left fin in, take your left fin out

Put your left fin in, and splash it all about!

You do the fishy pokey and you turn yourself around

That's what its all about!!

♪ Gills, fish face, tail etc You get the idea!

BEAT THE FISH!

No this is not as violent as it sounds!

Basically for every song that I could find about fish, I asked children to keep the beat on the Fish Score!

The Fish Score was a series of very brightly coloured fish that I copied, coloured and laminated. I added a magnet to the back and placed them on my white board or on the floor and children came and kept the beat for us with a cardboard Trident! This was great for assessment!

RHYTHM FISH

For this game I laminated a series of pictures of “Under the Sea” creatures....jellyfish, bluebottle, goldfish, starfish, coral etc.

Use the same rhyme as above for Barnacle but change the last line to “can you clap its name to me?” Children select a card from a Treasure Chest and clap the name/rhythm of the item. Again this is a great assessment tool...but make sure you have lots of variety and plenty of Sharks!

Once this is done, children join together to make a rhythm sentence with the picture cards. They need to say it, clap it and play it! Change the order of things. Kindy and Year one loved this activity. Later this becomes the discussion of ta and titi.