

Music and Movement

Music, movement and experiencing different sounds play an integral role in children's development. Making and using instruments can provide a multitude of different learning experiences. Music and movement experiences need to be planned and relevant to children's ages and stages. Music posters and CD's can be used for all ages to initiate children's interests in music as well as using it as a spring board to other activities.

Effects on Developmental Areas

Social and Emotional

- Provides opportunity to develop social skills, turn taking , sharing and co-operative play
- Allows a child to safely "join in" at own level of skill and interest

Physical Development

- Assists in fine motor development of hands, face and mouth muscles
- Provides opportunities for large muscle development
- Assists children develop body awareness

Language and communication Development

- Assists children to practice develop language
- Provides additional vocabulary
- Helps children develop sentence structure
- Helps children to develop listening skills

Cognitive Development

- Assists memory development
- Assists in problem solving

Inclusion Strategies

Each child will participate at his or her own level. It is not necessary for every child to "sing" or "play" an instrument or respond to your questions about the sounds, posters etc. but the fact that the child is given the opportunity to participate at his/her own level will be valuable for their development. It is important to work closely with parents as they have a wealth of knowledge about their child's interests and skills. They may also be able to provide your service with additional musical experiences.

The following strategies are just some examples on how music posters and music CD's can be used. These strategies are only the start and it is dependant on a variety of factors such as environment, length of time children are in care, children's likes, dislikes and skills already achieved. The strategies are divided into developmental areas. However some strategies overlap and assist in a variety of developmental areas.

Social and Emotional

- Display the posters and use the CD in a small group time, playing a few of the tracks.
- Encourage children to say what they think about the music in turn.
- Create a circle with the children and encourage them to make one sound that they can hear. Respond by acknowledging each child's achievement e.g. "Jack's drum sound was very loud, I thought it was a real drum".
- Make music an everyday part of your program.
- Having the posters displayed around your centre shows the children the importance that you place on musical instruments.

Physical Development

- Instrument making and playing is good for the development of both the gross and fine motor skills including eye-hand co-ordination.
- Allow children to "pretend" to use an instrument that is in one of the posters to encourage fine motor (fingers and hands) development.
- Allow children to use their feet to the rhythm of the music and to dance to the music.
- Create each child's space area when dancing and playing an instrument.
- Encourage children to make the sound of the instrument they are hearing. This will help the fine motor muscles of the mouth and face.

Language and Communication

- Talk about the posters asking children what they see.
- Provide descriptive words about what is in the posters to assist language development.
- Allow children to listen to one track of the CD and then ask them questions such as: "what sound can you hear, how many instruments can you hear, describe the sound you are hearing."
- Involve children in judging whether sounds good or not as good as others.
- Encourage children to listen for the varying sounds of volume, pitch and tempo.

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