Good Morning & Welcome!

Musical Madness in K51!



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Why Use Music To Teach English?

- 1. Fun and relaxing for all and helps to settle, motivate and stimulate students.
- 2. A pressure-free, warm-up TPR activity.
- 3. Develops listening and speaking fluency skills in L2-not to mention musicality!
 - 4. Attractive and novel, especially if a real instrument is involved.
- 5. Caters for a variety of different learners MIs (Multiple Intelligences)

Using Authentic Materials

Easier than you think!

Tailor-made for YOUR students.

Can match the ability of the students with a personalised, relevant theme.

Fun to create and can also enrich existing materials/programmes-PLP-R/W for example.

Can provide the students with an exposure to real language in a natural way.

Writing: Useful Tips for both Musical and Non-Musical Teachers

Start simple! Step-by-step!

The easier to sing the better!

Use of tambourines, triangles etc. Even singing on its own is enough.

Pay attention to the rhythm, pitch, tempo, Dynamics, number of words and syllables.

Something relevant, useful yet fun, silly and familiar. Is it difficult to say quickly?

Repetition can be a useful tool and can take the pressure off students.

Conclusion (Personal Observations)

Children are great soundboards to try out new teaching ideas, songs, poems and the like. It is important to keep looking for new ways to motivate them and to use your classroom as your lab so to speak. They love to take autonomy over learning too, i.e. small teacher/computer mouse!

Sometimes ideas don't work but at least you tried them! I find the most effective way to develop as a teacher is to be open-minded, flexible and reflective after each class coupled with an interest in current teaching pedagogy.

Summary

- Children are naturally inquisitive and will strive to actively try to construct meaning from the world around them (Cameron 2001)
- Both Pinter (2006) and Cameron (2001) argue that speaking and listening are the two most important skills when learning a second language.
 - Children are naturally gregarious and expressive thus any activity involving movement and music will be popular.
- They are also very receptive and more willing to take risks and 'speak out' at this age. Links to Vygotsky and the idea of 'social learning'
 - Music is a performance art. John Dewey and the idea of 'learning by doing'

Thank-you very much!

If you wish to learn more about my resources for students (poems, plays songs and chants) please write your contact details on the paper.

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References

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