



Vocal Enchantment Music

Teacher Lesson Tips and Ideas; first session .By Kylie.

Recently with the launch of my first cd “**Tree Song**” I have been visiting many places and engaging in music with children and teachers alike. What I find overwhelmingly when I talk to educators about incorporating music with meaningful outcomes into the wider curriculum is a reluctance to because they are insecure about their own musical abilities or they don’t really know where to start. “Tree Song” is a fabulous resource because it has different activities for each song. Some of the learning outcomes are set out in the “proposed activities” booklet. I wanted to share these musical ideas to make the cd as interactive and teacher friendly as possible.

The purpose for the start of these lesson tips is how to extend these songs even further.

Lesson One. Tree Song extension.

Once the children are confident with the actions and the words of the echo song and they remember the sequence of the story. Tree, Leaves, Nest, Egg, Bird, you can start talking about all the different birds there are. The list is endless but some of my favourites are magpies and kookaburras.

Magpie

Song.

*5 Little Magpies standing in a row one says cheep, cheep I must go.
Fly away Magpie Fly away so..... Make the sound of a Magpie....
Wiggle Waggle Wiggle Waggle.*

Magpies can fly to a certain place in the room I like to use a fallen branch for children to all fly to. Or if doing this outside fly to the tree.



Using your voice for vocalisations is great for children. It teaches them to create all types of sounds using their voice in a different way than speaking or shouting.

Outcomes, Inter and Intra connections made. Creating and Making are practiced because children are using their voice and body to imagine and respond. Children are learning to count. Magpies can include all children or groups of children. Language skills are practices as well as memorisation, and repetition of sounds. Listening skills are developed, all from this simple rhythmic poem and game.

Kookaburras are great to develop some confident vocalisations with the children because they naturally have a wonderful laughing sound. I was taught a long time ago by a very close friend of mine the sweetest way to none verbally connect with children. Using a baby kookaburra puppet make a kookaburra laughing sound and tell the children he is learning to fly.... Gently throw the kookaburra to a child and tell them to catch it, when they do get them to throw it back. It is amazing the interest that is created by this simple gesture. All the children will want a turn of course; some will have the confidence if you ask them to make a kookaburra sound they will try before throwing the kookaburra back to you.



When this is finished tell them Kookaburra wants to teach you a song.

Sing Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree. If you have a ukulele and you put a finger on the bottom string, third fret to create the chord C you can strum along to the tune. (Adding in the F7 and G chords if you want a little more harmony on last line “Gay your life must be.”)

After children have listened to song a few more times show them some actions. You can make up anything with the children I stick with 4 actions. (Easy for children to remember on their own.)

1. Make a Kookaburra beak with your hands in shape of a duck beak.
2. On word Gum Tree arms stretched out about head straight up.
3. On word Merry, Merry roll hands around.
4. On word laugh clap till end of song.

Extension for language development; - Once children are really confident with the words start leaving some of the words out singing them in your head. Start with “Gum Tree” but still make the action. You can then ask children what word we shall leave out. They love telling you. They also love it when you make a mistake and muck it all up.

Extension for movement and special awareness: - Ask children to make a circle. Choose one child to be the kookaburra and go around the circle when the singing stops they have to land on a gum tree. That gum tree then become the kookaburra and activity repeated.

Once the children have mastered this activity create a challenge to their special awareness by asking the children to create a gum tree shape (model straight trees, trees with crooked branches, branches that a hanging low to show different levels and shapes) Then start to model how the kookaburra travels in and around the gum trees not just around. Try game again getting children to change their shape to keep interest while waiting for their turn at the kookaburra.

Simple easy musical activities like this bring life to a class room involve everyone and children have fun without even knowing how much they have learnt.

Kind Regards Kylie Cooper.