

Teaching Unit: **Keeping the Beat/Reading Rhythms**

Essential Understandings

Basic music skills include being able to find the beat to a song and perform it through movement, as well as reading and performing rhythmic patterns. This is the first step in being able to read music.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

The students will be able to find the beat of classical music and perform it with body percussion or auxiliary percussion.

The students will be able to read and perform simple rhythms (TA and REST)

The students will be able to compose simple rhythmic patterns for others to read and perform.

Teaching Unit: **Simple Songs**

Essential Understandings

The chief purpose of these songs is to encourage independent singing from children while they assimilate the whole song

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

The students will be able to sing a simple song on their own (independently) with correct words, rhythm and pitch

Teaching Unit: **Song Fragments**

Essential Understandings

These songs are significant in the development of children's musical skills because they provide an opportunity to sing a short phrase alone. Echo songs invite the child to repeat the same tune and words, while Call and Response songs require the children to have pre-learned their part.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Students will be able to sing the echo (or response) to a song with the correct words, rhythms and pitches

Teaching Unit: **Pitch Exploration**

Essential Understandings

These sliding sounds help children engage the vocal muscles used to sing in their head voice. These muscles are the preferred muscles to use when singing at this age. Just as an athlete warms up certain muscle groups before exercising, singers should warm up the correct singing muscles

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Students will know how to change from their chest voice (talking voice) to their head voice (singing voice)

Students will be able to use their head voice consistently

Teaching Unit: ***Beat Motions (Songs/Rhymes)***

Essential Understandings

Having an intuition for the beat in music is central to all later rhythmic development. You can help children develop a feeling for how the beat coincides with a song or rhyme by allowing each child to initiate a beat motion at his or her preferred tempo and then by speaking a rhyme or singing a song following the tempo of the child's beat motions

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

The students will know what a beat is (the "heartbeat" of a song)

The students will know how the beat affects of the song (faster vs. slower/steady vs. unsteady)

The students will be able to find the beat in a song as well as create the beat for a song

Teaching Unit: ***Movement for Form and Expression***

Essential Understandings

These activities help children experience the expressive qualities through movement. At the same time, these activities also enable children to experience musical form through organized movement.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

The students will be able to say the chant or sing the song with the correct words, tempo and movements

Teaching Unit: ***Movement Songs***

Essential Understandings

These songs give direction to the students as to how they should move. Some allow for creative responses while others give precise directions. The key is to listen carefully!

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

The students will understand that they need to listen to the vocal cues in the songs to move correctly.

The students will react appropriately to the vocal cues presented in the songs

Teaching Unit: ***SongTales***

Essential Understandings

Because of the many words in a SongTale, these songs are sung for children, not by children. These songs should be excellent examples of music literature. Not only will SongTales help develop listening skills, but they can provide an opportunity for children to hear the expressiveness music should include

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

The students will sit quietly and still while listening to the SongTales.

The students will understand that these SongTales tell a story, much like when someone reads a book to them, only these use music to help tell the story instead of pictures.
