

Nature / Animals

*Lesson Plan for nursery school,
16 - 26 month old, by Rania*

Duration: approx 20 minutes

Aim of Session: Listen and move to the music, follow directions and trigger imagination

Skill: observation, memory, imitation, being social, listening, gross motor skills

Knowledge: Learn about the outdoors, nature, natural sounds, animals and animal sounds, observation and imitation

Description of Session

1. Warm up
2. Sing 2 songs about nature / animals
3. Show pictures of animals moves and make sound inspired by the picture
4. With a hand drum: name animals and children move according to that. Hit the drum rhythmically, mimicking the animal's or plant's march, behaviour, posture etc...
5. Music on: Musical statues with music that is about nature or animals. Move with the children. Ask the children to represent a specific animal when they move (check tips)
6. Sing 2 songs
7. Warm down music

Link to the Curriculum - *What do you want the children to achieve by the end of the lesson?*

“Move their whole bodies to sounds or music” (EYFS, Development Matters, 2012, Expressive arts and design: Exploring and using media and materials, 16-26)

Link to overarching learning objective - *What do you want the children to achieve by the end of this term?*

“Begins to move to music, listen to or join in rhymes or songs” (EYFS, Development Matters, 2012, Expressive arts and design: Exploring and using media and materials 16-26)

Role of the Adult

Encourage, support and assist the children, actively take part in the lesson

Role of the Child

Participate, listen and respond, imitate, recall from previous experiences, move to instructions

Resources

Music source (tablet, iPad), music, books/pictures of nature and animals, drum (and a mallet)*

Music suggestions:

1. [Woodwings](#) - Emily Doolittle (consider buying music)
2. [The Swan Brings Winter on its Wings](#) - Esther Hopkins
3. [Wanderlust](#) - Marta Lozano Molano
4. [Mountain Dances - I. Thin Air](#) - Kimberly Osberg

Warm down music: [The Linden Tree - Misha Mullov-Abbado performed by The Hermes Experiment](#)

Song Suggestion:

1. The Animal fair
2. Rub-a-dub-a-dub
3. 1-2-3-4-5 once I caught a fish alive
4. Walking through the jungle

Key Vocabulary

Names and sounds of animals, what we find out in nature, pretend, stop, do

Next Steps

Strike a pose when the music stops. Create sound stories based on the picture, talk about the quality of the animal's movement: big, slow, heavy, light, chirpy, etc..., increase or decrease the pulse when playing the drum to show that the animal is running or walking. Talk about an animal's natural habitat.

Tips for Music Practitioner in Nursery

1. It might be easier to focus the lesson plan around animals or nature but not both.
2. The music suggestions I give are only suggestions. Also, the titles of the music pieces suggest a specific animal or a nature scene, it doesn't mean that you have to use them only under this context and it doesn't mean that only pieces with a descriptive title should be used.
3. Try as much as you can to incorporate music written in modern times. I know other adults taking part in your lesson will feel more at ease listening to

something that sounds familiar. Classical music that talks about animals and nature is very popular and well known so maybe a combination of using old and new music will give you better results in your lesson time

4. Participate as much as possible in the session. When performing the drum activity move around as well and ask all practitioners to join in. With the musical statues activity it is better if you dance with the children and ask another adult to start and pause the music. Take a little bit of time the day before to arrange your music in such a way that you move smoothly from one track to the next.
5. Younger children might not easily get the concept of musical statues. That is okay. They are there to learn. If you actively take part in the activity then the children will be copying you. If you have more children between 16 - 22 months old, you can modify the activity like this: take a number of steps (3-4, everytime the same number) and then pause. Walk to the beat of the music - half the beat or double if necessary.

© Rania Chrysostomou, 2020, lesson plan for nursery schools music