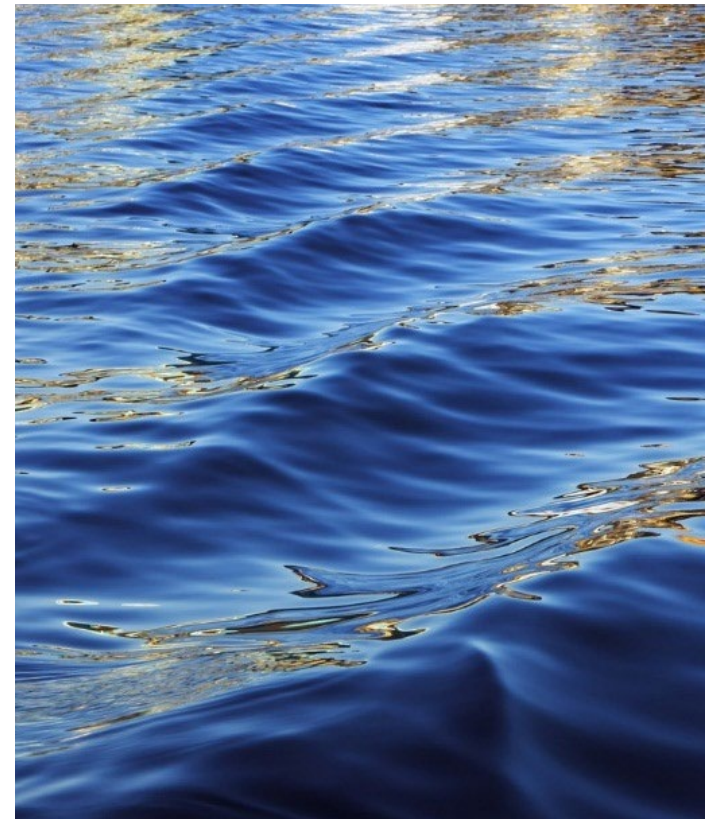


Creative Music and Sound Play in Early Childhood

幼兒創意音樂及 聲音遊戲

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Our School

- Kau Yan School (Kindergarten Section)
- Our curriculum is based on the Bible and constructivism learning theory.
- Students' learning takes place through "doing to learn " and "playing to learn". Project approach arouses the young children's interest in learning through interacting with their surroundings.
- The activity enables children to cultivate related knowledge in each learning phase and develop their self-learning ability through inquiry learning, expression of opinion and problem solving.

Content

- Important of music and sound exploration in early childhood
- Practice in Kau Yan School (Kindergarten Section) in Hong Kong
 - K₁: Outdoor music and sound appreciation
 - K₂: Outdoor percussion exploration
 - K₃: Sound and music technology



Important of Music and Sound Exploration in Early Childhood

NAfME Position stated that:

- Believe all young children have the capacities for music learning.
- Learning should have a wide variety of play-based music experiences, both unstructured and structured, incorporated into various types of learning opportunities such as one-on-one, choice time, integration with other areas of the curriculum, group music-making, and music listening. (NAfME) Retrieved from <https://nafme.org/about/position-statements/early-childhood-music-education/>
- 'Sound is critically important to the way children learn about their world' and because there is a tendency to focus on language skills and motor skills (Parenting Research Centre) Retrieved from <https://www.parentingrc.org.au/news/sound-an-unsung-hero-in-child-development/>

Advantages of Outdoor Education

- Nature-based curriculum supports children's learning of social, emotional, cognitive, creative, and physical skills (Woyke, 2004)
- Support hands-on learning experience through science investigations, music and movement experiences and art expression (Woyke, 2004; Rosenow, 2008)
- Develop children's ability to appreciate beauty, express creativity, and perceive patterns and using different dimensions of sensory learning to understand the world and themselves (Barber & Torquati, 2005)
- Shaping children's lifelong attitudes, values, and patterns of behavior toward natural environment (Wilson, 1993)

Advantages of Music Technology in Early Childhood Curriculum

- To develop children's own sense of imagination, to allow them to show their inventive, sensitive and enjoyable nature (Chou and Ko, 2013)
- Children can play with different sounds combinations and rhythms to create unique and new creative pieces that demonstrate artistic expression (Chou and Ko, 2013)
- Appreciation can be developed as young children listen, respond, perform and compose various pieces and they will able to collaborate together, share experiences and create a finished project (Chou and Ko, 2013)
- Foster a child's aesthetic understanding of the world through their interpretation of the art, beauty, and creative expression which is available for all to touch and sample (Hillier, 2011 ; Barbot and Lubart, 2012)

K1 Outdoor music and sound appreciation



K1 Outdoor Music and Sound Appreciation

Activity Design

- Activity aligned with the theme of “Community” in school curriculum
- Explore the sounds (nature/environmental) in park
- Discuss the characteristic of the sound, imitate the sound production with voice, creative story imagination, movement exploration and instrument playing

Roles of Teacher

Researcher

- Search a place that have many different sounds

Facilitator

- Use observation skills to guide children to aware the surrounding and listen
- Use questions to stimulate children’s observation and discussion

Planner

- Plan the visit with different types of integrated activity (e.g. sound listening, story telling, movement exploration and instrument playing)

Children's Learning

Sensory Stimulation –

Knowing the characteristic of different objects

- Visual
- Auditory
- Olfactory
- Tactile

Ways to express feelings

- Imitate sound
- Oral expression
- Body movements



Children's Learning

- Using body parts to imitate the appearance of different objects
- Imitate the sound of natural sceneries



Children's Learning



- Using different materials to make maracas
- Compare and contrast sound made by different materials
- Shake with the steady beat of the music
- Enjoy playing tutti with companions



- Make use of silk scarf to let children feel the direction of wind
- Using body to create silk scarf dance with the steady beat of the music
- Enjoy the fun of dancing



K2 Outdoor percussion experience

- Drum set made with different sizes of plastic bucket and steel plate
- Thongophone
- Different types of material percussion instrument (e.g. steel, plastic, wood, bamboo, metal, aluminum....etc.)

K2 Outdoor Percussion Exploration

Activity Design

- Free and safe exploration on all kinds of recycled material instrument
- Introduce different types of percussion family and its material (e.g. steel, plastic, membrane...etc.)
- Discuss the characteristic of the sound and its material
- Rhythmic piece creation and performance

Roles of Teacher

Observer

- Observe how children explore and play the instrument

Facilitator

- Discuss with children what they explore and share to each other
- Guide and demonstrate different possibilities to play with the instrument

Inspector

- Safety checking of the instrument and keep maintenance if needed

Children's Learning

- Rhythm creation
- Explore timbre of different materials
- Discover the relationship between different ways of playing and its sound quality
- Experience the percussion band playing with conductor





K3 Sound and music technology



K3 Sound and Music Technology

Activity Design

- Activity design aligned with the theme of “Community” in school curriculum
- Children collect the sound that attracts them in their daily life in community
- Materials collect from children: image of the sound taking, sound recording and its video
- Introduce the Apps of “Garage Band” and the understand the pitch range of the keyboard
- Put children’s recorded sound track in garage band and explore the sound in high and low range of the keyboard and find out the sound will be distorted or compressed in different ways
- Discuss the difference between the original sound track and the new created one and imagine the picture related to the sound and draw the picture
- Making children’s sound project

Roles of Teacher

Facilitator

- Guide children to discuss the characteristic of the sound that related to the musical concept such as pitch, speed, volume and expression elements
- Use questions to stimulate children’s imagination on the new created sound
- Accept different opinions from children and discuss the sound with all children
- Guide children to create the sound story for their sound project

Children's Learning

- Pay more attention to the surrounding in the society in order to make the observation more in detail.
- The use of iPad to enhance the skill of using electronics technologies
- The change of sound would change the feeling, creates new output and improves associative ability.
- Breakthrough the frame of music learning which is not just limited to singing, dancing, and instrument playing.



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Thank You