



artsplay highland

Critical appraisal for Ann Marie's 2nd music session
23rd May 2008
Sgoil Araich BSGI

This 45 minute music session involved approximately 25 sgoil araich children, and 2 staff members, with Ann Marie leading the session

Ann Marie - What a great music session!!!

Warm up

Your warm up was very successful in getting the children's attention, warming up voices and bodies all at the same time.

Bo anns a chidsin with instruments- To keep the flow of the session, you could instruct children what to do with instruments while they are waiting for all of the other children to get instruments. Keep instructions very clear. ie use "AGUS STAD", with your hands out, palms showing. Make sure all children are quiet before you start (you did this before you commenced the second verse.)

Loved the "torr fuaim" - ask them to make quiet sounds too. This would be best used when they first choose the instruments to allow experimenting with how the instruments work.

Great use of children's ideas.

Next step: children to be quiet except for singing Shoo shoo shoo

Criss Cross - Use "Am bhiel sibh deiseal..." for rhymes and poems too., with "deiseal" between the verses. Good use of quiet and loud, and it helps to keep it interesting and varied while reinforcing the poem. Always use actions to go with the poem - it helps the words make sense.

It was very cute when one of the children changed "cool breeze" into "cool berries"!

Lycra -Really good rules and I loved the variation of Andy Pandy. Praise the children who are doing well. Ie " I love the way Ronan shook the lycra at the same time as me. I wonder who else can?" "Thank you Lois. You were the best singer that time."

It was great to let the children underneath the lycra. It works well with music on too so the children can dance.

Movement with paper plate - The children really enjoyed this activity. It worked very well because you gave children a few ideas before they started, and pointed out children doing interesting moves, and allowed them to freely express their own ideas, to great music.

Lair mhaide- This too, worked very well, using one circle, then breaking into smaller circles. Pointing out the best singing group will again remind and encourage children to sing. (May help to suggest the children keep their feet still - less accidents, better concentration. Or add it to the activity to move in time)

Tha me breabag - What wonderful use of the puppet! Fantastic in every way.

Recommendations Keep pointing out the children who are tapping in time, singing well, moving well etc. The other children will copy their behaviour. Ask another staff member to be in charge of supervising children who need extra attention, so that you can concentrate on delivering a good music session.

Some parts of the session could move a little quicker from one song to the next so that children don't have time to start wriggling etc.

Encourage the children to be careful with the instruments.

Build on songs that the children are familiar with by changing words, doing new actions, starting slow and getting faster, doing actions only to songs.

Translate the simple songs in the music book to use with the children.

General comments -

Ann Marie, your music session was fantastic. It was very well prepared, covering a whole range of musical concepts and the large variety of experiences offered during your session helped you keep the children's attention extremely well. Your introductions to songs were excellent, and all were pitched perfectly for the children. Recommendations given from your previous music session were all noted by you and the improvement in your session is an absolute delight to see. Thank you, Ann Marie. It has been a pleasure working with you. The children in Sgoil-araich are very lucky to have such a talented musician to share music with them.

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