

Be Sharp Beetles

developing happy children through music

NEWSLETTER

Be Sharp Beetles focuses on developing your child's musical abilities from baby to 8 years old.

Activities from this quarter:

During this quarter the theme was Be Sharp Beetles and friends. The friends we met in class were all from Be Sharp Beetles Volume 5: The Creepy Crawley, Pinky Jones, "Mossie en sy maatjie", Felix the Flea, The Nodding Man, the bicycle that likes to stop and the Little Beetles that like to twist.

During the "hello" song we do different movements with our bodies like clapping our hands, waving and tapping on our knees to the rhythm. For older children Brain Gym activities are included. We sing "hello" in 4 different languages: English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Sotho.

We play with egg shakers, rhythm sticks, castanets, drums and bells to different genres of music. The Classical piece "Sonatina for Flute and Guitar" exposes children to the flute and the guitar and different movements are done with scarves.

Listening activities in class are focused on developing a child's awareness of sounds like that of the recorder, triangle, djembe drum and xylophone.

Music instruction that includes listening, visual and movement activities can improve a child's reading ability. In Be Sharp Beetles class we do all of the above through music, singing, rhymes and the use of a variety of percussion instruments.

Interesting information:

Shinichi Suzuki was the inventor of the international **Suzuki method** of **music education** and developed a philosophy for educating people of all ages and abilities. Considered an influential **pedagogue** in music education of children, he often spoke of the ability of all children to learn things well, especially in the right environment, and of developing the heart and building the character of music students through their music education.

Shinichi Suzuki said: "Teaching is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline and endurance. They get a beautiful heart."

And having a beautiful heart, sensitivity, discipline and endurance is what your children are developing in Be Sharp Beetles music classes on a weekly basis.



Be Sharp Beetles Encompasses:

- ♫ Musical development (an awareness and appreciation of musical genres and instruments)
- ♫ Gross motor development (jumping, running, marching, turning and doing coordinated movements with the body)
- ♫ Fine motor development (development of strong muscles in the wrist, hand and fingers)
- ♫ Rhythmic development (the ability to move to a specific rhythm like fast and slow as well as different beat patterns)
- ♫ Stimulation of the Vestibular system (the vestibular system is linked to a child's sense of balance)
- ♫ Bilateral coordination (the ability to use both sides of the body in a coordinated way)
- ♫ Language (through the use of puppets, musical stories and pictures the child's growing vocabulary is developed)
- ♫ Mathematical (music and movement stimulates problem-solving and reasoning abilities which are used in maths)

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