

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.

What do we do in Be Sharp Beetles class?

Be Sharp Beetles develops children from birth to eight years of age. We are also one of the few activities that work with babies. The original music and lesson plans are specifically written to include a variety of music and song styles, cultures and languages that will stimulate and encourage a child to grow on a musical, intellectual, emotional and physical level.

Be Sharp Beetles is a South African Music and Movement Program. We expose children to different cultures and languages in South Africa through song, percussion play and movement. So we sing "hello" in English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Sotho.

Music is the glue of our society –it brings us together and it is bringing children and adults together from different cultures, backgrounds and socio-economic backgrounds. We expose the children to many different genres of music: Classical Music (includes Opera, Orchestral pieces and different instruments of the orchestra), Rap Music, Rock-a-Roll music, music with a Latin-American beat, Jazz, the Waltz and instrumental music (without singing) as well as songs in different languages. While we expose children to different genres of music, we are cultivating a love and understanding of music. All children are born musical but it is whether we develop this inborn love for music in our children which determines how they will develop this special gift.

In class we play many different kinds of percussion instruments like egg shakers, drums, maracas, castanets and rhythm sticks. We also listen to the sounds of many different kinds of instruments like the triangle, recorder and the glockenspiel.

Movement to the music is a very important part of our musical experience. It is through movement that we learn and are able to internalize different rhythms and musical concepts. So we use colorful scarves, puppets and musical stories to inspire the children to move in a number of different ways. Their creativity and imagination is activated and stimulated. Ludwig van Beethoven said: " *Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. Music is in the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks and invents*".

General:

We will be doing Be Sharp Beetles Volume 7 next quarter: "The wonderful world of animals". The third quarter starts on the 20th July.



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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