

Be Sharp Beetles

developing happy children through music

NEWSLETTER

Be Sharp Beetles focuses on developing all aspects of a growing child. Language abilities and the ability to create and think out of the box are developed through participation in musical activities.

Activities from this quarter:

The theme this quarter was "The wonderful world of animals". We did a number of listening activities where we identified animal sounds. Activities such as this develop language abilities, the ability to concentrate and an awareness of sound which is what musicality and language development is all about.

During this quarter we learnt about the "Little Ducks" and the focus was to play and explore movements with castanets. The "Mouse in the house" song required a variety of movements with rhythm sticks. Musical activities stimulate all the senses, training a child's brain to organize and do numerous activities at the same time.

"Paddaskool" is a traditional Afrikaans song with an upbeat tempo: a great song for the exploration of different rhythms with maracas and drums. Children loved the song "I'm a monkey" as hoola hoops were used to do different coordinated "monkey tricks". "Ozzi the ostrich" is about an ostrich with colorful feathers which the "ladies like to wear in their hats". "Talk to the animals" is a musical story that teaches the children to talk to their animals and take care of them.

"Polly the Parrot" says: "hey dude. Where's my food?!" when he is hungry. During the song "Ring the bell", children learnt about different kinds of bells and were given the opportunity to play bells while following the instructions from the teachers.

We also learnt about Thokozane and his experience in a taxi – this listening activity gave children the opportunity to have their own experience traveling in a taxi. The "Teddy Bears picnic" was a favourite as coordinated movements were done with teddy bears to the music.

How musical activities develop language in children:

The main characteristics of music (pitch, timbre, intensity and rhythm) are all found in the spoken word. That is why musical experiences help a child to listen to, remember, integrate and produce language sounds. By exposing a child to music and movement activities you increase IQ, enhance abstract reasoning abilities, and improve creativity and memory. Children may listen to many different kinds of music but the combination of movement and music is what makes the difference in a child's cognitive development. (Brilliant Brain Games, Hamlyn)



Be Sharp Beetles Encompasses:

- ♪ **Language development** (through the use of puppets, musical stories and pictures the child's growing vocabulary is developed)
- ♪ **Musical development** (an understanding and knowledge of musical genres and instruments)
- ♪ **Rhythmic development** (the ability to move to a specific rhythm like fast and slow as well as different beat patterns)
- ♪ **Social development** (the ability to regulate emotions, develop confidence, build friendships and resolve conflicts)
- ♪ **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)
- ♪ **Stimulation of the Vestibular system** (the vestibular system is linked to a child's sense of balance)

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