

Lesson Plan K10: Rain, Rain

Primary Purpose: To help the children feel loved and happy about making music together!

Secondary Purpose: To review what we have learned so far this year (beat, pitch, dynamics, Solfa note names and signs); and teach tempo.

Resources:

1. Songs/Games:

- Delicious Music
- Rain, Rain
- Optional: The Eensy, Weensy (Itsy Bitsy) Spider, or You Are My Sunshine
- Adios, Amigos

Preparation:

Bring bells. Two signs: one with sun and the word “rall.” on it, the other with rain and the word “accel.” on it. (Write slow down or speed up on the back of the signs so you know what you’re asking the children to do.) Sheet music for “Rain, Rain,” one per child.

Plan Overview (with time approximations):

- Sing “Delicious Music” (1 minute)
- Sing “Rain, Rain, Go Away” Then show the Solfa notation on the board (s m ss m ss ml ss m) and sing and sign it. Then review what we’ve learned so far by—
- Finding the beat: clap to it
- Changing the pitch: higher, lower
- Changing the dynamics: louder, softer (Play the “growing pumpkin” dynamics game if desired)
- Explaining tempo: faster, slower. “Tempo means *time* in Italian. It means how fast or slow a song goes. If we want to speed up part of a song, we write a special word under it that says “accelerando.” If we want to slow down a part of a song, we write the word “rallentando.” We can shorten the words like this: “accel.” or “rall.” Think of the rain. When we’re outside and it starts to sprinkle rain, we might walk a little faster. But then it starts raining faster and faster and then it’s pouring. What do we do? We run for to get out of the rain! So I have this sign with the word “accel.” on it and some rain to remind us that when we see this tempo word, we want to speed up our song. And here’s another sign. It has a sun on it. When the sun comes out, we sometimes slow down because it feels so nice and warm on our skin. We take a deep breath and sigh happily. Ahhh! It feels so nice! So I have the word “rall.” on this sign to remind us to slow down.

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- Changing the tempo: sing any song and switch signs a few times to have the children slow down or speed up.
- Bells: Play "Rain, Rain"
- Solos (as per time)
- If you have time, you could also talk about why water is so important. how would you change the lyrics to show how important water is to us and how much we appreciate having rain? Or you could sing "The Eensy Weensy (Itsy Bitsy) Spider" or teach "You Are My Sunshine"
- Sing and say goodbye ("Adios, Amigos")