

Music and Me Evaluation Report

for Mid Lothian Council

JUNE 2013

Music and Me is a new resource developed specifically for Nursery staff that explores effective ways of using music to develop a wide range of emotional literacy and pre-reading skills.

A programme of CPD for staff supports the resource and follow-up visits to schools facilitate, monitor and evaluate its delivery.

Background

Music and Me was commissioned by East Lothian Support From the Start and East Lothian Council YMI, in response to evidence from a range of contemporary research highlighting the impact of Early Years intervention and indicating that music can be an effective tool to enhance learning in the areas of:

- Active Listening
- Concentration
- Sharing
- Turn-taking
- Carrying out instructions
- Leading and following
- Co-operation and collaboration
- Self-expression
- Emotional literacy

Support from the Start recognised that this approach could be of benefit to children in their “test site” schools where the remit is to improve early education opportunities. YMI has since funded the roll out of Music and Me in East Lothian, West Lothian and Midlothian nurseries.

The resource takes an intuitive approach to music making and is designed for use by all nursery staff, regardless of their perceived level of musical ability.

Music and Me in Midlothian

Three CPD sessions for nursery staff have taken place since Summer term 2012, and a total of 36 follow up visits to 19 participating nurseries took place between December 2012 and May 2013 to help embed the use of the resource, assisting teaching staff with its delivery. To date 30 staff have received cpd and follow-up, and a total of 445 pupils have received 2 x 40 minute music workshops led by David Trouton.

Response to the resource has been enthusiastic and positive. Evaluation questionnaires were sent to participating nursery staff in June 2013. To date, 7 completed questionnaires have been returned. The data from these is collated on the sample questionnaire below:

Nursery Resource: Staff Evaluation (from 7 returned questionnaires)

We are currently evaluating the "Music and Me" nursery resource pack and would appreciate your feedback on the resource, and your experience of using it with the children. This information is an important part of our report to the YMI, and will have a bearing on future funding for this work.

Please complete the form below and return it as soon as possible:

By email (preferred): dwtrouton@btinternet.com or

By post: David Trouton, Tron Cottage, The Wynd, Gifford, EH41 4QT

THANK YOU!

Class Teacher/ staff member _____ **Nursery:**

1) ABOUT YOUR CLASS

Number of children in your class/s:

Ante preschool /Preschool _____

How often have you been using the Music and Me resource material?

More than once a week ___ Once a week **_(6)_** On a few occasions but not every week _____ I haven't used the resource yet **_(1)_** _____

2) ABOUT THE RESOURCE

(Please have a copy of the Music and Me to hand when answering these questions)

Which activities have you used with your class/group

Warm-up games	___(4)___
Active Listening Games	___(6)___
Group Music-making	___(4)___
Singing	___(5)___
Music and Movement	___(5)___
Sound Stories	___(1)___
Music for Relaxation	___(4)___

Do you use the Music and Me CD with your class/group

Often **_(2)_** Occasionally **_(4)_** I haven't used it yet **_(1)_**

Do you reference the Curriculum for Excellence learning outcomes section in the Music and Me book?

Often (3) Occasionally (1) I haven't used it yet (3)

The resource aims to offer a selection of music games and activities that are accessible for all nursery teachers, regardless of their musical expertise.

Please rate your level of confidence in delivering the following aspects of Music and Me by numbering on a scale of 1 – 5 where 1 is Not Confident and 5 is Very Confident (Please circle your answer):

	Not confident -----Very confident				
Warm-up games	1	2	3(x1)	4(x1)	5(x3)
Active Listening games	1	2	3(x1)	4	5
Group Music-making	1	2	3(x1)	4(x2)	5(x3)
Singing	1	2	3(x4)	4	5(x2)
Music and Movement	1	2	3	4(x3)	5(x3)
Sound Stories	1	2	3(x1)	4(x3)	5(x2)
Music for Relaxation	1	2(x1)	3	4(x2)	5(x3)

Please rate the level of effectiveness as a means of developing the following skills by numbering on a scale of 1 – 5 where 1 is Not effective and 5 is Very Effective (Please circle your answer):

	Not confident -----Very confident				
Active Listening	1	2	3	4(x1)	5(x5)
Concentration	1	2	3	4(x1)	5 (x5)
Sharing	1	2	3	4(x3)	5 (x3)
Turn-taking	1	2	3	4(x3)	5 (x3)
Carrying out instructions	1	2	3	4(x1)	5 (x5)
Leading and following	1	2	3	4(x2)	5 (x4)
Co-operation and collaboration	1	2	3(x1)	4(x2)	5 (x3)
Self-expression	1	2	3(x1)	4(x1)	5 (x4)
Emotional Literacy	1	2	3(x1)	4(x1)	5 (x4)

How many of the class appeared stimulated and engaged by the resource material (Please circle your answer)?

100% of class (x2)

More than 50% of class (x1)

More than 75% of class (x3)

Less than 50% of class

3) YOUR COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS

We value your expertise as a Nursery specialist and would welcome your comments and opinions as part of our evaluation:

Do you see the music activities having an impact on the pupils? If so, in what way?

- Absolutely. In fact more and more as I get older I realise that what we take for granted with singing and music actually has a huge impact on the children. These last weeks we were doing mini-beasts and singing songs about them, one of which was about being careful not to hurt the mini-beasts. The children were heard going about their day singing this to themselves. Am planning to incorporate many more messages I would like them to learn through songs.
A child we have with behaviour issues often asks to listen to music about feelings. He says "Ah xxx luvv that song!" (usually the angry track.) But sometimes he doesn't want it and chooses one more soothing.
I use music a lot to steer the atmosphere/ calm down / focus the children. Music also brings the group together especially when singing happy favourite songs. (and as you know this is a group which doesn't have a strong sense of togetherness so we rejoice when we feel it!)
We have been doing sound stories. Not exactly the ones in the book but following the children's own ideas. Interesting to see them realise the power they have with their ideas. What they say has a direct result. Even the least confident will sometimes volunteer. The same with the children being the conductor of the band, it empowers them. Also requires the others to focus, listen, follow instructions etc.
- The Music and Me ideas are great and can be used and adapted in many ways. The CD is fine as a starting point but then it is more useful to use the ideas and incorporate them into a much wider range of music types and styles. The children loved Dave and he had a very nice manner with them. It is so good for nursery children to see a different face occasionally (a male one!) as they are so often surrounded by the same people (mostly female). I see the Music and Me materials as a springboard for expansion and extension rather than always sticking to what's in the book or on the CD but the materials are very useful for ideas which can be adapted (e.g. to a particular topic).
- They can sit and listen – persevere with tasks – developing listening and talking skills. It's helping to develop self-confidence in the children.
- It's helping to develop listening skills, turn-taking and following instructions. The children really enjoyed the music on the cd, and were keen to take part.
- Developing listening skills.
- Developing good listening, turn-taking, concentration, as well as their enjoyment of music and movement.

Music and Me is designed to be a cross-curricular package. Can you describe any ways you have used the ideas in the resource to introduce or develop other aspects of the curriculum?

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- Music and Me can be incorporated into drama, counting games, stimulus for drawing, using percussion and music of different styles from different /cultures (social studies) and festivals (RME)
- Sound stories linked to different topics, emotions linked to HWB feelings , settling new children and looking after them.
- The Music and Me CD links brilliantly with Box Full of Feelings and Confident Staff Confident Children course.
- Dance activities – Snowman/ music and movement. Warm-up – inside and out/ links well with maths/ H&WB learning about the body. Bird sounds – good listening/ discriminating between sounds
- Music and Me worked very well with our topic on emotions.
- I have used it with our “Feelings” theme. Also with “Opposites” – quiet/loud; soft/hard etc.

Do you have any further comments or suggestions on how the Music and Me resource could be improved?

- The activities have been excellent for our age of children and matches well with their level of development. The book is well-presented – easy to follow with clear instructions. I would be interested in ideas for working with larger groups.
- More pictorial pictures, and more different styles of music. More music!
- The CD is useful but we use a very wide range of music and songs and styles from a wide range of places (we have a wide collection) – pop, classical, Scottish, rap etc. So maybe a second CD would be useful for new ideas and a different stimulus.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.