

Music Concept Lesson

Concept: Grade 2/3

Dynamics -- music can get gradually louder (crescendo) and gradually softer (decrescendo).

Materials:

Note: Use enough details that someone else could find the recordings, songs books, visual aids or instruments quickly or could create their own using this list.

Rhythm sticks for everyone in class

Song "Kookaburra" Making Music (2005), Grade 4, CD 4

Song "Old Brass Wagon" Making Music (2005), Grade 2, CD 4

Objectives: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

Note: Begin each objective with an action verb.

1. Sing the song "Old Brass Wagon" with correct words, pitches, and rhythms with help from the teacher.
2. Sing "Old Brass Wagon" with gradual dynamic changes as directed by teacher hand movements.
3. Describe changes in dynamics using musical terms.
4. Demonstrate hand movements to show dynamic changes when teacher sings new song.

Note: This step shows the students can transfer their knowledge to something new to demonstrate that they understand the concept.

Procedures: The teacher steps will be:

1. Review "piano" and "forte." Allow students to demonstrate on rhythm instruments following teacher hand movement. (Closed palms for soft and out-stretched hands for forte.)

Note: I am not reviewing the lesson I am currently teaching, only material previously learned that is necessary to teach this new concept. You do not review your new topic. You also can not ask students to define your concept at this point. Assume this is a new topic and you must teach it first.

2. Teach “crescendo” by defining the term, demonstrating with rhythm instruments and then allowing students to demonstrate on rhythm instruments by following teacher’s hand movements.
3. Teach “decrescendo” by defining the term, demonstrating with rhythm instruments, and then allowing students to demonstrate on rhythm instruments by following teacher’s hand movements.
4. Teach “Old Brass Wagon” by rote following the rote process.

Note: If you teach a song in your lesson, you do not need to write out every step in the rote process unless you feel it would help you to study your lesson. You will be held responsible for completing the steps as taught and practiced in this class.

5. Add hand movements to direct dynamic changes while students sing “Old Brass Wagon,” one phrase at a time. (Teacher keeps both palms together for soft dynamic and gradually moves them apart to indicate a crescendo, reversing the process for a decrescendo.) Students describe changes using new terms “crescendo” and “decrescendo.”
6. Lead students in singing “Old Brass Wagon” and demonstrating hand movements along with teacher.
7. Sing new song, “Kookaburra,” and have students respond with appropriate hand movements to dynamic changes.

Note: Keep this transfer step simple and short in order to save time. You may want to consider using a listening activity, chant, or rhythm activity, etc. instead of a song.

8. Review the terms crescendo and decrescendo by giving the definition of each and calling on an individual to answer the question.

Assessment:

Note: You must have an evaluation for each of your objectives as stated above. You must also indicate how you will evaluate each objective.

1. Could the students sing the song "Old Brass Wagon" with correct words, pitches, and rhythms? (Listen and correct as necessary.)
OR . . .
Listen for correct words, pitches, and rhythms as the students sing the song “Old Brass Wagon.” Correct as necessary.
2. Could students sing with gradual dynamic changes as directed by teacher hand movements? (Listen.)

3. Could students use musical terms to describe the changes in dynamics? (Ask questions - how many were answered correctly?)
4. Did students demonstrate appropriate hand motions to show dynamic changes when teacher sang new song? (Observe.)

One Last Note: If you type the words "teach," "review," "tell," or similar words, you must state HOW you will do this. Yes, teachers teach, but it is the HOW that makes you a teacher. It is not enough to simply define or tell, you must have supporting activities. As you work on your lesson, keep asking yourself HOW you will accomplish each objective.