

Montessori Lesson Plans Based on Emma's Holiday in Paris

Lesson 1: Exploring Emotions through Music

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

Objective: Students will express their emotions through music and movement, developing an understanding of how music can evoke feelings.

Preparation:

- **Materials Needed:**
 - A speaker or piano to play Debussy's Children's Corner pieces
 - Space for dancing (classroom cleared of furniture)
 - Simple props for movement (scarves, ribbons, or soft toys)

Directions for Teacher:

1. **Set Up:**
 - Clear a large area in the classroom for movement activities.
 - Prepare a playlist with the selected pieces from Debussy's Children's Corner: "Doctor Gradus ad Parnassus," "Jimbo's Lullaby," "Serenade for the Doll," "The Sow is Dancing," "The Little Shepherd," and "The Golliwog's Cakewalk."
2. **Introduction (5 minutes):**
 - Briefly introduce Debussy and his music.
 - Explain that music can make us feel different emotions and that they will explore this through movement.
3. **Listening Activity (10 minutes):**
 - Play "Doctor Gradus ad Parnassus" and ask students how it makes them feel.
 - Prompt them to express their feelings using facial expressions or body language.
 - Repeat with "Jimbo's Lullaby," discussing empathy for Jimbo and how the music feels soft and calming.
4. **Movement Activity (10 minutes):**
 - Play "The Sow is Dancing" and encourage students to move like they are watching a snowstorm. Use scarves as props to mimic snowflakes.
 - Transition to "The Golliwog's Cakewalk" and invite them to dance freely, imagining they are in a celebration.

5. **Reflection (5 minutes):**

- Gather students and ask them to share their experiences of how each piece of music made them feel.

Lesson 2: Artistic Expression through Drawing

Estimated Time: 45 minutes

Objective: Students will create artwork inspired by the music of Debussy, enhancing their fine motor skills and creativity.

Preparation:

- **Materials Needed:**
 - Drawing paper
 - Crayons, colored pencils, or watercolors
 - Copies of images related to the pieces (e.g., elephants for "Jimbo's Lullaby," dolls for "Serenade for the Doll")

Directions for Teacher:

1. **Set Up:**
 - Arrange tables with drawing materials for each student.
 - Display images around the room related to the pieces they will draw.
2. **Introduction (5 minutes):**
 - Explain that they will listen to music and create pictures inspired by what they hear.
3. **Listening and Drawing (30 minutes):**
 - Play "Serenade for the Doll," and instruct students to draw what they imagine when they hear the music. Encourage them to think about colors and shapes that represent the doll.
 - Switch to "The Little Shepherd" and invite them to illustrate the shepherd and the sounds they hear in the music. Discuss what they envision while listening.
4. **Sharing Art (10 minutes):**
 - Allow students to present their drawings to the class, describing the music that inspired them and their artistic choices.

Lesson 3: Storytelling through Movement and Music

Estimated Time: 40 minutes

Objective: Students will create a simple story or scenario using music and movement, enhancing their narrative skills and teamwork.

Preparation:

- **Materials Needed:**
 - A speaker to play Debussy's Children's Corner pieces
 - Props for storytelling (hats, stuffed animals, etc.)

Directions for Teacher:

1. **Set Up:**
 - Arrange the classroom to create a space for storytelling and movement.
 - Prepare a selection of props that can be used in storytelling.
2. **Introduction (5 minutes):**
 - Explain that they will create a story inspired by the music and that they can use props to help tell their story.
3. **Group Activity (20 minutes):**
 - Divide students into small groups and assign each group a piece of music from Debussy's Children's Corner.
 - Allow them to listen to their assigned piece and brainstorm a short story they can act out.
 - Encourage them to think about characters, settings, and emotions.
4. **Performance (10 minutes):**
 - Each group presents their story to the class while the music plays in the background.
 - Encourage them to use props and movement to enhance their storytelling.
5. **Discussion (5 minutes):**
 - After all performances, have a brief discussion about how music helped them convey their stories and emotions.

These lessons aim to engage first-grade students in music, art, and storytelling, fostering independence and creative expression in a manner consistent with Montessori principles.