

Sound Effect Plays

Age(s): 3-12 years old
Number of participants: any number of participants, but obviously there would need to be pairs.

What you need: Two participants. Using instruments with your hands. (Drums and cymbals, bells and rings)

What the teacher does: This idea follows the class theme of exploring sound effects. Many students will be interested in what they can hear from outside their classroom. I notice that they cannot bring instruments along when we go outside because there will be others using them. Therefore I bring instruments from home so that my students can hear them and see them. I encourage them to explore different sounds and make them louder or softer. I also encourage them to make different sounds by changing pitch. I ask them to make different sounds by changing volume. I ask them to make different sounds by changing tempo. I ask them to make different sounds by changing dynamics. I ask them to make different sounds by changing tone. I ask them to make different sounds by changing instrument.

What the children do: This will need a process explanation at first - who needs to play what, when will you play it, etc. The participants will begin to play their instruments, and then switch to another's after a few seconds. They will continue this until all instruments have been played.

Another day of fun:

Participants group need to sit around the room and play their instruments for each other. Once they have finished, "What instrument?" I encourage them to say things like "drum", "cymbal", "bells", etc. I encourage them to play different sounds for more effects. I ask them to play different instruments for the different sounds. I ask them to play different instruments for each other. I ask them to play different instruments for different sounds. I ask them to play different instruments for different feelings.

They usually don't know what instruments they are using so they might just play a variety of the instruments available without knowing exactly what the sounds are. I encourage them to play different instruments for different feelings. "What instrument did you play?"

After all the groups have presented, I ask everyone to sit down in their groups and play their instruments for everyone. There are many different instruments sounding and so all the sounds like these just confuse us. When we sit down everything disappears. I encourage people to play the same part of instruments and instruments of similar sounds. I ask them to play instruments I have chosen from my piano. I suggest 4 student groups. One student sits at piano and everyone else plays their instruments.

After this we finish singing. This ends the very busy last 10 minutes of our lesson.