

Margot's Magical Winter Wonder Party

Music Activities

Winter Wonder Party Playlist

Create a winter themed playlist using either YouTube or Spotify. Start by adding a few festive favourites of your own, and then ask them for ideas from the children. Encourage them to explain why they have chosen the song, why they like it and how it makes them feel. You could even send the playlist link home to parents or around to other relatives to show them and to allow more people to enjoy the music choices over the holidays!

Seasonal Soundscapes

Soundscapes are a great way to get children using musical language and experimenting with composition. They also have the added bonus of not needing any instrument specific skills - soundscapes are easily created using only handheld percussion instruments, household items or body percussion!

1. Margot encounters a thunderstorm during the show. Discuss with children what happens during a thunderstorm (wind, rain, hail, lightning etc).
2. Explain that you are going to create a soundscape of a thunderstorm. If the children are unfamiliar with the word soundscape, explain that it is like a picture made of sounds rather than images.
3. Get them to start thinking about what sounds they would hear during a thunderstorm, linking back to their prior knowledge of storm weather.
4. Ask everyone to sit with you in a circle on the floor. Explain that you will begin an activity, then the person to your right will join in, then the person to his/her right will join in, etc. until it creates a wave all around the circle. Once it reaches back to you (the leader) you begin a different activity, and this creates a second wave. Tell the students that they are to carefully copy the movements of the person to their left, and not switch activities until that person switches. Try to encourage them to not focus on "the leader", but instead on the person to their left.
5. Rub your hands together. (This is the wind)
Tap one finger on the palm of your hand. (These are the first raindrops.)
Tap all 4 fingers. (Many more rain drops.)
Full out clapping. (It's getting more intense!)
Slap on the floor, or your thighs. (Thunder enters!)
After a big crescendo, repeat all the activities in reverse order as the storm dies down, until you're rubbing hands together. Then quietly stop, and there should be absolutely silence.

Afterwards, ask the children to reflect and feedback on whether they thought it sounded like a thunderstorm.

Ask if there are any percussion instruments that could be used to make it sound more realistic (maracas/egg shakers/drums/rain sticks all work well here).

If creating a soundscape at home, children could experiment with using household objects to create storm sounds. Saucepans can be used as drums, a container with some rice or pasta makes a great shaker, even plastic bags can be rustled to create wind and rain sounds!

Children could then be split into small groups to create their own Storm Soundscape using a blend of instruments and their body percussion sounds and perform these to each other.

Ideas for Extension

- Assign different seasons or weather conditions to each group.
- Challenge groups to create a soundscape linking to one of Margot's cancelled plans (football match, picnic, Halloween etc).
- Ask the groups to use their voices in their soundscape - perhaps they could make bird sounds if their season is Spring, or sing a snippet of a festive song if their season is Winter. Could they add football cheers, people talking or laughing as part of their soundscape?
- This links well with the drama activity 'Margot's Paintings' - the children could create soundscapes to accompany another group's freeze-frame.

