

Musical Activities And The Special Learner

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- I. Little Sir Echo- Activity**
- II. Overview of Heartspring Music Program**

Music is a universal language and all persons are entitled to the benefits music has to offer, regardless of their mental and physical limitations.

Music plays an important role in the program of the students at Heartspring. It's more than learning theory and music concept; basic skills are emphasized while simultaneously utilizing the individual learning potential of each Heartspring student. Performance in vocal, instrumental and special programs are major parts of the program, which aids in the development of social and emotional growth.
- III. Special learners have been labeled by various terms** some examples are Autism, Mental Retardation, Other Health Impairment, Down Syndrome etc.). Some labels are descriptive of behaviors that may or may not be symptomatic of the condition and hence are sometimes used to describe the population as a whole. Therefore I try to provide music experiences for all children focusing on individuality, creativity, zest and their originality. These include opportunities to respond vocally, instrumentally, to a physical cue, such as gesture, or touch. This technique is a step above imitation, or mimicking. Music learning processes beyond these responses which aids in developing independent playing singing or moving. with musical sensitivity, responding musical develops eventually into sensing when to respond, and finally into a completely independent and musical response. The difference between responding on cue and independent responses is the essence of musical understanding and hence, music education.
- IV. Come On Everybody Activity.**

When teaching and providing activities –I encourage independence, making choices, flexibility and creativity.
- V. Rhythm Band Activity-“Let’s Ride in a car”**

Sometimes it’s nice to have a good movement activity to follow an activity where the students had to wait their turn.
- VI. The Body Rock Activity**
- VII. In conclusion Musical activities for the Special Learner can be very meaningful when you teach and work with the students utilizing their individual potential versus labels.**
- VIII. Question/ Answer Period.**

Thanks

