

Sing-Along Silly Songs

Lesson Plans: Math, Science & Music

Materials:

Books – Any book from the Sing-Along Silly Songs Series with accompanying CD

12 Clean clear pint size canning jars (three jars make one xylophone)

Chart paper and marker

Pitcher or small basin of water

Pencils or metal spoons

Food coloring

Objectives:

Students will develop creative-thinking skills, science skills, math skills, and an understanding of music as they explore various sounds and melodies by experimenting with changing water levels in glass jars.

Pre-Reading: Ask students if they like to listen to music. What is their favorite kind of music? Music is played using instruments. Can the students name some instruments that they might hear when they listen to music? Do they have a favorite instrument?

Engagement: Share any book from the Sing-Along Silly Songs Series with the accompanying CD. Ask children to SING-ALONG and LISTEN carefully – what instruments do they hear in the song.

Activity:

1. Explain to students that you are going to make your own instruments. With the whole group, place six glass jars on the floor in front of children. Invite a few children to tap against the jars with a pencil or a spoon. What do they hear? Do they notice anything? Do the jars sound the same, or different? Next, pour varying levels of water into each jar. Invite students to take turns tapping the jars. What's different? Fill the jars so that they all have the same amount of water. Ask the class to predict what they will hear.
2. Talk about what was just learned about water, water levels, and the jars. Can any conclusions be made? This is a great time to talk about the jar being $\frac{1}{2}$ full, $\frac{1}{4}$ full, or completely full to introduce fraction concepts. Use paper and marker to make a chart of different water levels and the sounds they make. High sound, low sound, medium sound...
3. Explain that they will now be using everything they learned to create their own musical instrument – a water xylophone.
4. Working in pairs, give students three jars each. You can pour the water, allow the student to pour the water, or monitor at the sink. Encourage students to experiment with different levels of water and the sounds they create. For extra fun, add food coloring to the water. (Tip: Use only Red, Yellow and Blue food coloring encouraging students to mix colors to make new colors.) Allow students to explore and play their water xylophones.
5. Play more Sing-Along Silly Songs and invite the children to play and sing-along.

Transition: Enjoy playing the water xylophones to the music. Ask students to play the jar with the highest sound. Now, play the jar with the lowest sound. Who has the highest sounding jar in the classroom? How about the lowest? What do they know about water levels and the way the instrument sounds?

Closure: Invite students to rotate around the room and try another group's water xylophone. How is it different? How is it the same? Play and dance to the music as you rotate around to different stations.

