



PRESCHOOL MUSIC EDUCATION

VOORSCHOOLSE MUZIEK EDUCATIE

EDUCAZIONE MUSICALE PRESCOLARE

We are a group dedicated to young children and their musical growth.

The mission of the group: to study, to discuss and to exchange our work in early childhood music education with an emphasis on research connected to practice resulting in workable outcomes. We aim to disseminate knowledge representing our study efforts as well as to disseminate knowledge accumulated through practice.

We engage in formal and informal collaborative investigation and we have an eclectic approach enabling all members to contribute according to their own passions and ideas thereby utilizing a broad range of research methods.

Music & Numbers

José Retra & Laura Habegger

Aim:

Considering early childhood music education as art education, we are looking for commonalities in the use of music and numbers (mathematics) in order to understand - verstehen - the role/function of the kind of thinking, the actionability of numbers, carry with them in early childhood music lessons.

Method:

Words are the containers of meaning therefore debate is essential in the formulation and understanding of concepts; literature research, observation in practice.

Work in progress:

We are experimenting with the very first ideas: collecting data through video observation of activities, thick description as well as experiments in practices.

Emotional response to known and unknown sounds in natural sound listening in early childhood

Laura Habegger & Daniela Lenti Boero

The appreciation of man-made artificial sounds, including music, is influenced by experience, society and culture. However, human evolutionary history laid the foundations, and shaped the parameters of our attitudes and judgments towards sounds in general and music in particular (Lenti Boero & Bottoni: Intrinsic Musicality Theory, 2008).

We explore the practicality of using facial expression analysis (Morgan et al., 2009), in order to understand the emotional response to known and unknown sounds by 2 and 3-year old children.

We are analyzing the recorded data, thereby incorporating the preliminary finding that facial expressions do not only include emotional responses but also for example attention and confirmatory requests to the adult.

Art with a big A

José Retra & Margré van Gestel

A continuous investigation towards a theoretical construct, though with an emphasis on applicability in practice, about possible ways to organise and conduct music educational concerts for young children, with the possibility of translation to other cultural settings (Gestel van & Retra, 2014). Aspects of Arts-based research methodology were found to be appropriate for the representation of knowledge accumulated through and in action making it accessible not only beyond a written report but also for the target group: the children (Leavy, 2009). The concerts themselves are regarded as the representation of the investigation. As such the concerts represent an authentic music educational world where the children can sit where they want - even between the musicians - and can be actively involved.

Progetto concerti Jazz per bambini e famiglie

Anna Pileri, Associazione NuFlava, José Retra, M. Imberty

The international research in sound-music education reveals the importance of early (even from uterus - Imberty 2005) interactive-musical experiences for the development of future musicality and the multiplicity of aspects that those musical experiences involve on the emotional-affective, social, motor and cultural levels, providing the opportunities to meet and exchange different styles and genres in a multicultural context. From this approach, the project "Educational City of the Jazz: project for children and families" aim to valorize one of the most neglected styles on the educational-didactic plan: the Jazz, finding origin and impulse in the improvisational aspect that characterize Jazz more than any other musical style. We intend to promote Jazz music through cultural events (as afternoon concerts for children and families), research studies and teacher training courses.