

THE IMPORTANCE OF USING SONGS AND VIDEOS FOR TEACHING YOUNG LEARNERS

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to examine the importance of using songs in the English language classroom. This study will identify if using songs in the English language classroom will promote vocabulary acquisition, and if using songs in the classroom will motivate the children to learn the English language, and will songs raise the children's cultural awareness. There is research pointing to the benefits of using music in second language learning however, there exists some disagreement among researchers if music could improve language development or if it is just a fun activity. This article also discusses on how to use music in the classroom in the most valuable way. In the current study, we explore and provide an overview for the possible advantages of using music. It has also been investigated the effectiveness of different musical approaches for facilitating language learning for young children in an educational context. In particular, we will discuss how songs and music can motivate young English language learners in their process and how the second language development can benefit from this.

Keywords: music, song, video, English language learning, positive impact, cognitive skills.

Song is discovered in every culture; even isolated tribal groups have a form of music. The culture we are in influences our ability to perceive emotion in music. Through songs our emotions can come to life. A fast tempo song can bring excitement or anger to the listener, a slow tempo may bring sadness and serenity. A smooth rhythm can make us feel happy at peace and relaxed. Music plays a vital role in one's life, at the start of birth with mothers singing lullabies to their children. We use music during our important occasions such as weddings, birthdays and every country has its own anthem. Using music in the classroom can be a powerful way to engage and motivate students.

According to Murphey (1992) using songs in the language classroom has its advantages it can aid the young learner to develop and improve their listening skills and pronunciation, eventually their speaking skills. Alternatively it can also be a useful

tool for learning vocabulary, sentence structures and sentence patterns. Young learners develop their cognitive skills through music, it enhances their language skills through singing, and children learn language appreciation, vocabulary and rhyme Shipley (1998). In addition Cameron (2001) stated that songs can be a valuable teaching and learning tool as it helps the learners to improve their listening and vocabulary. Children's language instruction cannot be viewed as routine classroom instruction.

The social and cognitive development of children must be taken into account during this difficult process. A setting that resembles something children would find natural should be developed in order to accomplish this. Through engaging activities, one of the finest methods to foster nature and a stress-free environment can be achieved (Nihada & Alisa, 2016).

Deraman (2014) stated that the use of children's music helps in the mastery of children's vocabulary. This is proven from the findings of a study by where songs are used for children to help master English vocabulary in nurseries as early as three years old. In addition, children can process, produce and appreciate the variety of English vocabulary. This variety of English vocabulary can be seen through the vocabulary used through music and singing in the classroom. Children's interest in mastering English vocabulary can be nurtured with music that helps them through understanding, pronunciation and vocabulary.

Piro and Ortiz (2009) have studied that the mastery of vocabulary and oral skills of children can be seen through singing. Music and singing can also introduce various concepts and languages because the lyrics are easy for children to remember and understand. Increased vocabulary and oral mastery can be applied through pronunciation while singing. Teachers can carry out this activity to give children the opportunity to expand their vocabulary and oral development through singing activities.

Overall, incorporating music into the classroom with the help of videos can have a positive impact on students' learning and language development. By using music in creative and engaging ways, teachers can help students to not only learn new concepts and vocabulary, but also to develop a deeper appreciation for music as an art form.

Singing can also improve children's cognitive skills. Cognitive skills are the ability of individuals to think, be independent, give opinions, understand and remember things that happen in their respective environments. This is in line with the findings of the Blakemore and Frith (2000) study, where singing also without us realizing it, allows children to process a large amount of information quickly during the learning process by listening to songs while solving problems in mathematics (Zeki et al., 2014). This is because music education can improve cognitive skills such as memory, attention, and problem-solving, which are transferable to other academic subjects. In fact, studies

have shown that students who participate in music programs tend to have higher test scores in math, reading, and science than those who do not. Therefore, by incorporating music into the classroom, teachers can help their students to achieve academic success.

Furthermore, singing can also improve children's language development. Research has shown that children who participate in singing activities have better language skills, including vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. This is because singing helps children to develop phonological awareness, which is the ability to identify and manipulate sounds in words. Lastly, it promotes social and emotional development. Music has the power to bring people together and create a sense of community. By singing or playing instruments together, children can learn to work collaboratively and develop their social skills. Music can also help children to express their emotions in a safe and healthy way. By listening to music or creating their own, children can learn to identify and regulate their emotions, which can improve their mental health and well-being.

In addition, music can also have a positive impact on children's mental health and well-being. Studies have shown that listening to music can reduce stress and anxiety, improve mood, and enhance overall emotional well-being. Playing music can also be a form of therapy for children who are struggling with emotional or behavioral issues.

Kuśnierek [35] explains that there are two major motives behind using music in English language teaching classes including motives to meet the cognitive needs of the learners as well as to enhance effectiveness. The Krashen Affective Filter Hypothesis (1982) describes these affective factors as an explanation for the differences between the learning abilities of two learners. This is further explained by Saricoban and Metin [36] who have observed that songs can enhance the performance of EFL learners in all four linguistic areas concerned with listening, writing, speaking, and reading. However, to ensure this enhancement, students are required to develop a positive attitude towards the overall learning process. Krashen [34] explains that the presence of a positive attitude towards learning proves the existence of a weak affective filter. Music can aid in creating a positive attitude by offering an easy-going learning atmosphere hence mitigating the affective filter.

Lestari (2011) used music and English songs to find out whether learning English through songs and music would improve Indonesian students' pronunciation skill or not. The findings indicated that the students who learnt English through songs and music pronounced better than the students learning English through traditional ways. Similarly, Ratnasari (2007) conducted a study in which children songs were utilized to teach pronunciation. The findings of the study revealed that songs had remarkable effects on the improvement of Indonesian students' pronunciation. Kusrini (2011) investigated the effects of songs on the development of English pronunciation and

reported that all language learners, especially young learners, appreciated learning English through songs.

Furthermore, their English pronunciation got better. In a similar study, Moradi and Shahrokhi (2014) found that songs remarkably improved Iranian children's English pronunciation, stress and intonation. The findings of the post-test in the research revealed that the children who learnt English through songs considerably overcame their pronunciation problems.

Using music in the classroom can be a powerful way to engage and motivate students. Here are some ways teachers can incorporate music into their lessons:

1. Use songs to teach vocabulary and grammar: Songs with simple lyrics and catchy melodies can help students learn new words and grammar structures in a fun and memorable way.

2. Create songs or raps to summarize key concepts: Students can work in groups to create their own songs or raps that summarize what they have learned in class. This can be a fun and creative way for them to review and reinforce their understanding of the material.

3. Use music to set the tone for learning: Teachers can use music to create a positive and energized learning environment. Playing upbeat music during transitions or quiet background music during independent work time can help students stay focused and motivated.

4. Incorporate music into interdisciplinary projects: Teachers can collaborate with music teachers or musicians in the community to create interdisciplinary projects that combine music with other subjects such as history, science, or literature.

5. Encourage students to share their own musical talents: Teachers can create opportunities for students to share their own musical talents with the class, such as playing an instrument, singing a song, or composing their own music.

By incorporating videos clips into their lessons, teachers can tap into students' natural love of music and use it as a tool to engage and motivate them in their learning.

Overall, incorporating music into the classroom can have a wide range of benefits for children's learning and development. Whether it's through singing, playing instruments, or simply listening to music, teachers can use music as a tool to engage students, enhance their understanding of concepts, promote social and emotional growth, and improve their overall well-being.

Furthermore, incorporating music into the classroom can have numerous benefits for students' learning and development. Teachers can use music in a variety of ways to engage students, enhance their understanding of concepts, and promote social and emotional growth. By making music an integral part of the learning experience, teachers can create a more dynamic and enriching classroom environment.

In conclusion, music is a valuable tool that can enhance children's learning and development in various ways. By incorporating music into the classroom, teachers can create a fun and engaging learning environment, promote language development, improve mental health and well-being, foster social and emotional growth, and help their students to achieve academic success. Therefore, it is important for educators to recognize the benefits of music education and to make it a part of their teaching practice. Overall, incorporating music into language learning can have a positive impact on students' language acquisition, motivation, and overall enjoyment of the learning process. Teachers can use songs to introduce new vocabulary and grammar structures, improve pronunciation and intonation, and provide cultural context. Additionally, music can help to create a more relaxed and enjoyable learning environment, which can lead to increased student engagement and participation. As such, it is important for language teachers to recognize the benefits of using music in their classrooms and to incorporate it into their teaching practice.

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