

Fran McKinney, B.A., M.S.Ed.

Early Childhood Music

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Example of Teacher Workshop

Musical Books: An Engaging Pathway for Early Learning

Presenter: Fran McKinney, B.A., M.S.Ed.

Session Description

This workshop will show how the connection between songs and books provides a unique pathway for every type of learner. When songs are paired with thematic books, visual materials and movement activities, children can develop language, basic concepts and early literacy skills while increasing self-esteem and building community with others. Songs and books presented will be a combination of original and traditional songs along with published books, teacher-made and self-published books. These materials will be paired with movement activities which reinforce the concepts and language presented in the books and songs. This approach captures the child's interest and imagination as they are also learning essential skills cognitively and socially. It is an approach that enlivens the classroom (and the teacher!), as the children learn to "read to sing" and "sing to read" independently, with peers or as a group.

Young children are active participants in the learning process, and the workshop participants will also be active learners in the following activities presented:

- Songs for different seasons and themes will be sung with the use of published and/or teacher-made books as well as other visual materials
- Movement activities will provide another pathway for learning while enhancing a sense of friendship and community
- Fingerplays will demonstrate fun ways to teach concepts, language and beginning music skills
- Manipulatives used will provide further kinesthetic and sensory learning in making the songs accessible for all learners
- Songs for movement and language learning will involve the child as an active participant in creating parts of the song, empowering them with success and increasing self-esteem

Participants will leave the workshop with new ideas about including books and visual materials into their music and movement program. They will learn that this combination of learning tools can be energizing for their students and can give a new focus to their own professional direction.

Contact Fran for more information on workshops to fit the needs of your facility and/or school.