**FIRST ACCESS CPD : 5TH Feb, 2014**

**Useful Songs & Games (using 3 – 5 notes)**

For a long time I have been an advocate of children being able to sing the songs they learn to play, mostly they learn to sing them first! Once they have internalised the song, they take ownership of it and there are many possibilities to use the songs and turn them into games so as to understand different aspects: pitch, rhythm, beat, dynamics, tempi, vocal timbre, phrase length, structure etc. From the songs below, they can be transposed into any key, suitable for the instrument that you are using.

**Building Scales Warm Up:**

Use digits on hand as a five note ladder. Treat as an echo exercise. (This is the whole scale given – so obviously use only the notes you need). Can be altered by different tempi & dynamics.

**Three Note Songs**

**The Elephant has a Long Trunk,** (With kind permission for use from June Tillman)

From Kokoleoko

As well as only using three notes, which can be shown in gross motor skill throughout the body (i.e. C = knees, D = tummy and E = shoulders) or on the hand ladder, this is an ideal song for long and short notes: they can be shown stretching out a piece of (imaginary) chewing gum or merely drawing your hands apart for long notes and the short notes demonstrated as claps. Ideal intro to staccato vs. tenuto. Instruments with naturally long (cymbal/triangle) or short (claves or woodblock) can be used to accentuate this.

**Did You Ever?**

This is a partner game; the purpose and effect of the fermata notes can be discussed. Form two circles of partners, one partner faces into the circle, the other is opposite, facing out.The clapping pattern is as follows:

Did you ev – er, ev – er, ev – er in your long leg - ged life

Knees clap RH clap LH clap RH clap LH clap long clap RH clap LH clap

sign

See a long leg - ged sai - lor with a long leg - ged wife?

RH clap long clap RH clap LH Clap RH clap long clap RH clap LH clap

sign sign

In the next two verses, short is shown with hands close together (but not a clap!) and one by putting one finger up). Other kinds of legs can be used if wanted! (Bow-legged, wobbly legged, hairy legged, etc.)

The game will improve co-ordination skills and help quick thinking. After the first verse, the inside partner should move on one to gain a new partner, left or right – you choose!

Use the song as a rhythm vs beat pattern in aid to learning the rhythm of the notes and understanding minims and crotchets.

**Three notes used within a song:**

**Old MacDonald & Dumplin’s Song**

Both pentatonic songs which can be introduced just to play the three notes required in the first instance. They may well go on to learn the other notes later, in which case you can return to these and play the whole thing. Show the three notes on your hand note ladder. If you don’t like the word Dumplin’s – then change it! The Dumplin’s Song can also be used as a nice introduction to syncopated rhythms and an ostinato can be set up on any one of these taken from the song on pitched or unpitched percussion.

Alternative words for Old MacDonald can also be found in Sing for Pleasure: Lord Longleat had a Game reserve: Book 2 “Kumala Vista”.

**Four Note Songs**

**Miss Mary Mack**

Use different parts of the body for each of the four notes:

Knees, tummy, shoulders, head, then on fingers of hand note ladder

**Pease Pudding Hot**

Use this song for beat vs. rhythm, show phrases using you arms like windscreen wipers to show each phrase. Discuss how the phrases are not all the same length. Use actions to show the rests:

In the rests after each of the following words, some suggestions for actions:

Hot = “h” sound as you wave your hand in front of your mouth

Cold = “brrr” as you shiver with your arms folded

Old = “euew”

Old (second time) = “Yuck!”

Internalise the song and just do the actions

Sing it in a round

Sing it with London Bridge is falling down

**Four notes used within a song:**

**Postman**

Postman is a singing game. Children stand in a circle. One is nominated the Postman and has four letters. Sing the song and the postman skips round the circle. On “postman knock”, the postman stops and mimes three knocks on the door. Up jumps whoever s/he has got to and gives them the 4 letters in time to the song. Person with the letters then becomes the new postman.

**Five note songs:**

**Once a Man**

Use hand note ladder to show the pitches – maybe with numbers first, then the real words. Use I V as a bass-line pattern: I V, I V, I V, V I

Ask questions about how the tune is the same/different & the same with the bass line.

Show different rhythm patterns on flash cards – identify the correct ones for this song.

Talk about the structure and phrases.

**When the Saints**  
A great song to start marching the beat to and then clapping the rhythm of the words at the same time.

Sing it and show the notes on the hand note ladder. Sing it with it’s partner songs : Swing Low Sweet Chariot and I’m Gonna Sing Sing Sing. (Sing for Pleasure : Book 8)

Also, five note songs, from “Apple Tree” from Sing for Pleasure Book 13:

**I can climb a scale and Apple Tree**

Both songs to be used on hand note ladder, I can Climb a scale uses semiquavers as well as crotchets and quavers – so can be used in a rhythmic context.

Sing for Pleasure Website:

<https://www.singforpleasure.org.uk/shop/index.php?cPath=21>

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