

Erasmus+ project Music as a Tool for Improving Young Children's Language Learning Skills

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Lesson plans

Lesson N1. by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: Identifying sounds

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 3-4

Materials/instruments: Musicon, scarves

Development areas: cognition, auditory sensitivity.

Goals: memory, identifying sounds, attention.

Activity Description: the teacher will give each student a scarf and ask them to sit with their backs to Musicon. 1. Starting with individual sounds on each instrument, the teacher will ask them to count how many they heard and on which instrument. 2. Once they no longer have problem recognizing the instruments, the teacher will pair the dodo sound with clapping and the xylophone sound with waving a scarf.

Possible Adjustments: the difficulty of the activity can be adjusted by adding more instruments, pairing with different moves and playing them simultaneously.

Supportive messages: we hear and see sound coming from all around us, from the cars driving by, from the telephone ringing, from the children playing, but let's see if we can identify the sounds when we have our eyes closed.

Lesson Plan N2 By Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: Coding the song

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 3-4

Materials/instruments: Song coded on the code sheet, colorful stickers, Musicon.

Development areas: Memory, cognition

Goals: Identifying colors, following directions, attention, counting.

Activity Description: the teacher will code the song on musicon using different colored stickers. Then will ask each student to push buttons as they count out loud, for example two red buttons, three yellow, four blue, etc. until the whole song is coded. Once the children code the song the teacher will play it on musicon (xylophones) and will ask the students to identify the song. First she will play it slowly with only a few notes at a time and prompt to guess that way. If the students have a hard time to guess the tune, the teacher will play musicon faster including more notes. Once the children guess the song, they sing it together with the teacher.



Possible Adjustments: the teacher might prompt the students to clap and sing at the same time. Another alteration could be taking away a note at a time to see how it changes the tune.

Supportive messages:

Lesson Plan N3 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: Alphabet game

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 5-6

Materials/instruments: Photos of objects on each letter of the alphabet, alphabet letters. Musicon rubber bands

Development areas: Language

Goals: learning the alphabet, letter identification

Activity Description: the teacher will attach different photos to Musicon (A= Apple, B= Boat, C= Candle, D= dog, E= elephant, F= fox,. Etc. only a few at a time). She will turn on the musicon and prompt each child to stop it at a certain picture. Then the teacher will identify the beginning letter and ask the whole class to repeat it. First the letter, then the word. Once they have gone through the alphabet, the teacher will ask students to create the letter shapes on Musicon using the rubber bands. Once everyone has done that, they will play the “alphabet song”, using the musicon instruments.

Possible Adjustments: the teacher can prompt the students to create the letters one at a time after each picture.

Supportive messages: let's see how well we know the alphabet and what it can sound like.

Lesson Plan N4 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: Color game

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 5-6

Materials/instruments: scarves,

Development areas: Language

Goals: color identification

Activity Description: the teacher color codes musicon instruments with different colors, for example, dodo - green color, ocean drum- blue, cymbal -red. The teacher will give each child three scarves (green, blue and red) and will prompt them to wave the corresponding scarf when the instruments play.

Possible Adjustments: adjusting the tempo for the initial 3 instruments. Adding more instruments with additional movements when the new instrument plays.

Supportive messages:

Lesson Plan N5 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: Once upon a time

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 5-6

Materials/instruments: musicon instruments

Development areas: Cognition, language

Goals: develop memory, attention, language skills



Activity Description: the teacher will first tell a short story. She will ask the students to identify the main events in the story. Once they have done that the teacher will ask the students to match the event with an instrument on musicon. Together, they will line up the instruments consecutively on musicon. When everything is set up, the teacher will prompt the students to tell the story using the musicon instruments. In the end the students will act out the story together with the teacher.

Possible Adjustments: for the little ones the teacher might have additional pictures that display the story events, to help them visualize the order of events.

Supportive messages: we all have our own stories and it's important to listen to each other when we tell them. Let's see how well we can listen and remember them.

Lesson Plan N6 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: the sound of our feelings

Duration: 25-35minutes

Age: 5-6

Materials/instruments: little pillows with different feeling emojis on them

Development areas: emotional expression

Goals: help identify and express an emotion

Activity Description: the teacher will prompt each child to choose from the 12 emotion pillows and will give them freedom to code the musicon, matching the way they feel at that moment. They will also choose the speed of musicon and play their emotions to the rest of the class.

Possible Adjustments: if there's more than one student feeling the same emotion, the teacher might ask them to work as a group and code musicon together.

Supportive messages: we might experience so many different emotions. Music provides a safe space for us to express them. Let's see what they might sound like.

Lesson Plan N7 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: find the note

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 3-4

Materials/instruments: musicon xylophone

Development areas: hearing

Goals: identifying pitches.

Activity Description: the teacher will code a familiar song on the musicon code sheet. Then will sing a note to each student, prompting them to find the right note on the xylophone and press the corresponding button on it. Once they have gone through the whole sheet, the teacher will play the song on musicon and ask the students to guess the song.

Possible Adjustments: once they have identified the song, the teacher might ask the students to match it with the beat on dodo.

Supportive messages: melody consists of single notes, but once they're put together, they sound very beautiful. Let's find out what the complete melody sounds like.

Lesson Plan N8 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: A B A

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 5-6

Materials/instruments: letter cards (a, b, a), musicon instruments - dodo, xylophone.



Development areas: cognition, reasoning.

Goals: identifying basic musical form.

Activity Description: the teacher will play a 3-part rhythm on musicon, where the first and the last parts are the same, but the middle one is contrasting. She will prompt the students to listen and see if they hear any difference between the parts. How one is different from the other and how they are similar. (they will count the beats, for example, only by listening, or counting the pegs on musicon) Once they have discussed the differences and similarities, the teacher will assign a movement to each part and they will play the beats again with accompanying movements.

Possible Adjustments: the teacher will ask each student to add/take away 1-2 pegs as directed to see how the form changes.

Supportive messages: it is important to listen and observe to learn about the nature of things around us.

Lesson Plan N9 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: Musicon Pumpkins

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age group: 4-6

Materials/instruments: pumpkin cutouts, markers/pencils, double sided tape.

Development areas: Language learning

Goals: self-expression, emotional vocabulary

Activity Description: the teacher will play the song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trDI36m9pgA&list=RDtrDI36m9pgA&start_radio=1 she will ask the children to imitate the emotions in the song. Then the teacher will give each child a pumpkin photo and ask them to draw on it according to their own emotion. When they have done so, the teacher will ask the children one by one to show the pumpkin to the class and say "I feel ...", then they will attach pumpkin photos to musicon with a double sided tape. Each child will press two buttons on musicon to create the pumpkin song together. The teacher will play it using different instruments on musicon, without Dodo (rhythm). Then will put the zig-zag rhythm on Dodo and prompt the children to clap along.

Possible Adjustments: Another option is to use the rubber bands to create pumpkin shapes on Musicon and then play the pumpkin song.

Supportive messages: All feelings are okay—it's good to know how we feel and everyone might feel different things. Music can help us show our feelings through singing, playing, dancing... We are going to express ourselves through music and we'll do it together to learn how to show our own emotions as well as listen to others"

Lesson Plan N10 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: Symmetry

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 5-6

Materials/instruments: rubber bands, musicon instruments

Development areas: motor development, auditory sensitivity

Goals: development of concentration, attention, memory. Improving fine motor skills.



Activity Description: the teacher will divide the class into two groups. She will put a colorful stripe in the middle of Musicon and ask one child from each group to press 3 buttons on Musicon, so that they are symmetrical. Group A presses on the left side, group B- on the right. When everyone is through, the teacher will ask them to go to Musicon and check if all the buttons are symmetrical. After that, the teacher will give each child a rubber band and ask them to make shapes using the 3 buttons that are already pushed out on musicon. Then the teacher will arrange the instruments on musicon and together they will listen to the song they created.

Possible Adjustments: for the older children, they will have to keep the symmetry of the shapes as well, to make the task a bit more challenging.

Supportive messages: “You made both sides match perfectly—great job noticing the details!” “I love how carefully you’re checking that each side looks the same.”

“Your shape looks just like a mirror picture—so balanced!”

“You kept trying until it looked right—that’s great perseverance!”

“You’ve got such good eyes for symmetry—you spotted the middle line!”

“You worked so well to keep it even—what great teamwork!”

Lesson Plan N11 by Ruso Chuntishvili

Activity name: Shapes

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Age: 5-6

Materials/instruments: rubber bands. Pictures of shapes: triangle, square, rectangle, circle, trapezoid. (add more as necessary). a speaker.

Development areas: motor development, auditory sensitivity,

Goals: learning shape names

Activity Description: the teacher will introduce different shapes with pictures) and go through their names with the class. Then will play an upbeat song through a speaker. She will say: when I stop the music, freeze like a ... (and name a shape)” the children will work with their classmates and freeze into the shape. (if it is a triangle, there will be groups of 3, if it’s a square, groups of 4, etc.) The teacher will check the shapes that the children have created as a group, then will give each a rubber band and ask them to create the same shape on Musicon. After they have done so, the teacher will play the song again and repeat the same steps until they have gone through all the shapes.

Possible Adjustments: for the little ones, the teacher can attach the photos on musicon and when she says :”freeze” ask each child to identify the shape on Musicon.

Supportive messages: “You recognized that shape so quickly—great job using your eyes!” “You found all the corners and sides—what a smart shape explorer!”

“You noticed how this shape is different—great thinking!”

“You remembered the name of that shape—your brain is working hard!”

“We are surrounded with different shapes everywhere, look around the classroom, what shapes do you see?, what shapes do you have at home?”



Lesson Plan №1 by Julia Russkikh

Activity name: Motor skills

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Materials/instruments: Musicon, xylophone, drum.

Development areas: fine and gross motor skills, rhythmic coordination.

Goals: Strengthening finger muscles, developing hand coordination, sensory awareness of pressure and touch, developing social skills through taking turns, improving gross motor skills through dancing, and developing listening skills. **Psychological part:** reflection on whether the sensations are pleasant or not; strengthening self-awareness and confidence through pressing the button — *I press, I use my strength, and I get a result.*

Activity Description: At the first stage, the teacher shows the Musicon and invites the children to spin the drum together and touch the buttons. The teacher can ask if they like or don't like the feeling. Then ask them to spin it very fast and then very slowly, and talk about which one they like more. Introduce the opposite words fast and slow.

At the second stage, the teacher asks the children to press the buttons. For younger children, use the thumb. They can press with both hands, and the teacher can help and demonstrate how to do it.

At the third stage, the children choose musical instruments to place on the Musicon. The teacher asks one of the children to turn on the Musicon, and everyone dances to the improvised music they created by pressing the buttons. The activity ends with a short breathing meditation — taking deep breaths in and out together. The children thank the instruments and the Musicon.

Possible Adjustments: The teacher can put colorful stickers on the buttons and ask the children to press the buttons of a certain color, adding a math learning element to the activity.



Supportive messages: Let's make our fingers strong so they can do and learn many things!

Lesson Plan №2 by Julia Ruskikh

Activity name: Passing toy

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Materials/instruments: Musicon, puppet Jaco

Development areas: language skills, social skills, coordination and motor skills, listening and musical skills.

Goals: develop social skills through taking turns and sharing, build listening and musical skills by responding to music, improve coordination and fine motor skills through passing the toy, enhance language skills by saying their name, and foster emotional skills such as patience, self-control, and enjoying the success of others.

Activity Description: The children sit in a circle in front of the Musicon. The teacher takes the puppets out of the box, introduces them to the children, and says their names.

Then the teacher gives the children the opportunity to choose one puppet for the game "Pass the Toy." The teacher turns on the music on the Musicon, and first the children and the teacher sing the song "Funga Alafia" together.

After that, the teacher says, "Now we will pass the toy to the music and say our names. When the music stops, the child holding the toy will say their name." The children pass the toy around. When a child says their name, the others can greet them by saying "Hello" or "Hi."

The game continues until every child in the circle has said their name.

Possible Adjustments: At the beginning of the lesson, the teacher can ask the children to help code the song "Funga Alafia" by placing stickers on the correct buttons, and then try to guess the melody.

Supportive messages: Let's get to know each other and learn everyone's names through the fun game "Pass the Toy."

Lesson Plan №3 by Julia Ruskikh

Activity name: Rubber band

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Materials/instruments: Musicon, colorful rubber bands



Development areas: fine motor skills, language skills

Goals: Development of thumb strength and practice of stretching and pulling skills to improve dressing and undressing abilities. Controlling the stretch of the rubber band: strong–weak. Development of counting skills.

Activity Description: At the first stage of the lesson, the teacher invites the children to press the buttons on Musicon. Then, the teacher shows the rubber bands and asks the children to choose a color.

At the second stage, the teacher demonstrates how to stretch the rubber band using the thumbs. The band can be stretched strongly and far, or lightly. Then the children try doing this first on their own fingers.

At the third stage, the teacher asks the children to stretch the rubber bands over the Musicon buttons and count how many buttons fit inside the band.

Possible Adjustments: For the activity, you can use a colored ribbon and ask the children to press the buttons in the row with a specific color.

Supportive messages: Let's see how far we can stretch the rubber band.

Lesson Plan №4 by Julia Russkikh

[Link with presentation](#)

Activity name: Zoo Trip with Musicon

Duration: 25-35 minutes

Materials/instruments: Animal figurines, Musicon, puppet, musical instruments

Development areas: language and speech, fine and gross motor skills, educational, social skills

Goals: Development of language and speech, development of gross and fine motor skills, learning about animals, expressing emotions through movements and sounds.

Activity Description: See the more detailed plan in the presentation via the link.

At the first stage, the children greet the puppet, and the teacher tells a story about visiting the zoo.

At the second stage, the children sing the song “Old MacDonald Had a Zoo.” The melody is programmed on the Musicon. The teacher and children sing the song, and gradually five zoo



animals appear. The children imitate the sounds and movements of these animals (lion, tiger, monkey, crocodile, elephant).

At the third stage, the teacher invites the children to press the buttons on the Musicon.

At the fourth stage, a small party with the zoo animals is organized. The children choose musical instruments for improvisation. Together with the Musicon, they play the instruments and dance.

At the fifth stage, relaxation and slowing down through breathing exercises and a “freeze” game take place, followed by saying goodbye to the puppet and the animals.

