

Octave and the Orchestra



Objective

To introduce pre-school children to singing, creative music and instrumental music-making prior to starting school, enabling them to develop their social and creative skills at an earlier age.

Background

Octave and the Orchestra has developed from the educational concepts of Zoltan Kodály (based on unaccompanied singing, relative sol-fa and rhythm sol-fa) and Emile Jacques-Dalcroze (based on physical movement) and the more recent work of the Colourstrings movement.

Aims & Activities

Children first experience music through a variety of activities that will help to develop their basic musical skills without being hindered by the technical problems of holding or playing an instrument.

- Singing
- Movement (walking, marching and dancing)
- Body Percussion

These activities not only help to develop their understanding of the basic musical elements of beat (fast and slow) and pitch (high and low), but also develop their co-ordination and motor skills. Children are also encouraged to work together and develop their social skills throughout the sessions.

As the children make progress with their basic musical skills, these can then be applied first to basic rhythm instruments e.g. shakers, and to a more traditional instrument - primarily the violin. Additional musical elements such as rhythm, melody, dynamics, tempo and character are also introduced.

Conclusion

Octave and the Orchestra is an ideal introduction to music making and understanding music that will benefit children throughout their musical and general education through the development of a variety of transferable skills.