

ACTIVITY 5

Vocal Play



INTENT:

Engage in a playful activity from the Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 2, that supports the development of pitch capabilities and vocal inflections for TK children.



OUTCOMES:

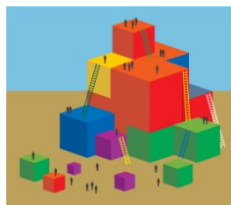
Participants will be able to use this activity with children to playfully support the development of pitch capabilities and vocal inflections.



MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Slide whistle
- Optional: Candlestick

TIME: 5-7 minutes



PROCESS:

- Invite participants to stand up; say, “It’s time to play with our voices!”
- Remind participants that standing up will provide better diaphragm support and reduce stress on vocal chords; say, “Vocal play warms up the vocal muscles needed for the more exact task of singing songs on pitch and supports expanding the range of notes children can sing.”
- Instruct participants to place their hands on their chest to feel the chest rise and fall with each breath; have them make a low “ahhhhhhh” sound as they pat their chests and feel the sound vibrating in their body.
- Invite participants can play with various vocal sounds. **Emphasize attention to feeling the resonance in the body and where sounds arise from.**
- Use the slide whistle to regain attention of participants. Play the slide whistle sound again; instruct and demonstrate by saying, “On my cue, we are going to slowly imitate the whistle sounds together. Keep your hands on your chest; take a deep breath. Fill up your chest and belly with air, then as you make the whistle sound, squeeze your belly in, pushing the air up through your chest as you make the whistle sound. You’ll feel the sound resonate as it moves up through your chest, passes through the vocal cords and out of your mouth. Play with that sound a few times.”
- Continue instructing the participants by saying, “Now let’s bring it to the classroom. Say this nursery rhyme with me, ‘Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jump over the candlestick!’ As Jack/Jill jumps over the candlestick use your voice to say, ‘WOOOOOOoooooop!’ As he/she jumps make your voice go up and down like a roller coaster. Start in a low voice, bent over with arms low. Raise your arms as you go up high with your voice. Then slide back down to low for the final part of ‘woop.’”

OPTIONAL:

Engage several participants to jump over the candlestick as “Jack” or “Jill.”