

Early Childhood Music Level 1

This 10-day course caters for prep-school teachers, early childhood specialists, crèche and kindergarten carers, day care providers, parents and all those interested in childhood development. It is designed to provide participants with an informed understanding of both childhood development and the key role of music in that development. The musical skills of the teacher, carer or parent are central to the provision of appropriate music-making activities for children. Therefore, participants will be involved in the development of their own musical skills. Early Childhood 1 is focused on children aged 0-3 years.

The curriculum includes:

- Pedagogy
- Repertoire
- Practicum
- Musicianship
- Choir
- Research Topics

Required Text books:

Johnson, J. *Tickle me*. Clayfield School of Music

Bridges, D. *Music, the Young Child and You*. Tower Books

Forrai, K. *Music in Pre School*. Clayfield School of Music, Brisbane.

Participants are required to complete each of the 3 levels of the Early Childhood Program in order to be eligible for the Australian Kodály Certificate.

N.B. Sound Thinking Australia retains the right to cancel the course if there are insufficient enrolments.

PEDAGOGY – LEVEL 1 – Early Childhood (0 to 3 years) - 15 hours

Course Content:

- An overview of child development – 0 to 3 years.
- The Musical characteristics of children – 0 to 3 years
- A spiral curriculum for understanding the musical elements of timbre, tempo, dynamics, pitch, rhythm and form appropriate for this age group.
- An overview of the development of musical skills – 0 to 3 years.
- Lesson planning – long range planning and short term objectives.
- Adult involvement – parents and carers.

Assessment:

- A demonstrated knowledge of Kodaly's educational philosophy through individual research and group discussion on the writings of Kodaly.
- Written and/or practical lesson segments demonstrating an understanding of the particular steps in the teaching of a concept/element covered in class.
- Written assignment which demonstrates the student's understanding of the readings and class discussions on the value of early childhood music.
- Lesson plans for different stages of this age group.

Outcomes:

- The students will demonstrate their ability to provide a good teacher model for this age group.
- They will show a growing knowledge of the abilities and requirements of the children.
- They will be able to discuss, communicate ideas and display a growing awareness of developmental sequencing appropriate for the youngest children.

MATERIALS – LEVEL 1 – Early Childhood - 5 hours

Course Content:

- An investigation of the various categories of songs, rhymes and games which are appropriate to the 0 to 3 year age group in an Early Childhood music program.
- An analysis of suggested material with guidelines to help teachers choose wisely for the children.
- Songs, rhymes and recorded music which allow young children to develop a strong feeling for beat and which prepare them for future music learning.
- Songs, rhymes and recorded music which allow young children to respond to a variety of moods.

Listening songs

- The beginning of a song file and retrieval system to allow teachers to categorize and organize their resources as an aid to better lesson planning.
- Assessment:
- Preparedness and willingness to participate in class to demonstrate set materials
- Written test which requires the student to write out set materials and to discuss their use in a music program for this age group.
- Demonstration that the song file and retrieval system continues to develop

Outcomes:

- Through performance of the repertoire the students will memorize a body of material suitable for this age group and be able to demonstrate it musically and confidently.
- Through analysis, they will begin to understand the attributes of appropriate resources for this age group and find it easier and more effective to choose material for their classes.

PRACTICUM – LEVEL 1 – Early Childhood - 5 hours

Course Content:

- An introduction to peer teaching.
- Peer teaching of repertoire appropriate for Early Childhood classes
- Peer teaching of short lesson segments suitable for the age group.

Assessment:

- Students will prepare a minimum of 4 required segments.
- Peer discussion and analysis of demonstrated techniques.
- Willingness of the student to act as the “teacher” and the “student”

Outcomes:

- The students will demonstrate a growing confidence in the repertoire and the teaching techniques under discussion.
- The students will demonstrate a growing ability to plan lesson segments which show more understanding of the requirements of children of this age.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES:

Level 1 – Early Childhood – 0 to 3 years - 10 hours

Course Content:

- An investigation of readings relevant to the age group under investigation. This could include articles by writers such as Kodaly, Forrai, Piaget, Bruner, Gardner, Gordon, Feierabend etc., recent journal articles relevant to early childhood and music education, and viewing of videos demonstrating best practice in Early Childhood music programs.

Assessment:

- Each student will demonstrate their understanding of the material by leading a class discussion based on their analysis of a topic expressed in some of these sources.
- A written assignment to critically analyse a set piece of research and compare it with other research in the area.

Outcomes:

- The students will gain a more in-depth understanding of the development of young children and how this affects the planning and implementing of music programs for this age group.