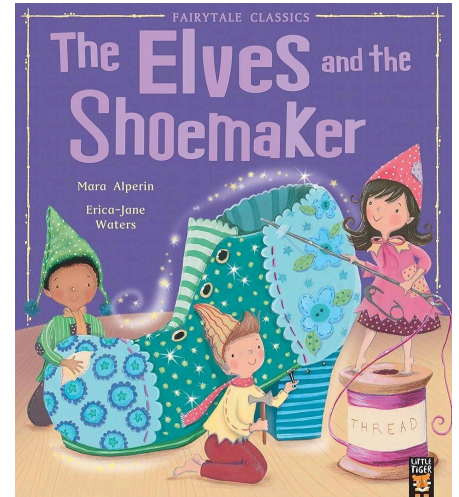


The Shoemaker's Work

Monthly Lesson Plan-Anne Malsam

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I went to a GPOC workshop in January 2023 where Lori Mills shared this idea and I loved doing it with my students! I created another way of learning through play to let my students have a chance to do something like this again. Thank you Lori for inspiring me and sharing such fun ideas!



Learning Objective

Students will be able to compose and perform 8 beat patterns using rhythmic building blocks. Identify Sol, La, and Mi.

Introduction

Read the book "The Elves and the Shoemaker" by Mara Alperin with your students. In the book, the Elves sing a song and I notated it as this:

We love jum - ping, leap - ing, pranc - ing We were sad when you stopped danc - ing.

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So we creep in while you're sleep - ing Mak - ing new shoes, bright and gleam - ing.

"Shoemaker's Dance" by the Shenanigans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDNZnygDBqA>

Movement Version

A – make a workbench for the shoemaker by kneeling on one knee, and put the other knee up to form a bench. Pretend to sew.

B – pretend to hammer by placing one fist on knee, hit with other fist

C – get up and dance any way you like in 6/8

Repeat

Instrument Version

Every child has a pair of finger cymbals and a tone block with a mallet and a scarf.

If there are not enough instruments and scarves for everyone, split into three groups.

If there are enough scarves for everyone to have one, split into two groups.

A – Finger Cymbals (sewing) (for "Rhythm Readers", show whole notes")

B – Tone Blocks ("Rhythm Readers" use 4 beat rhythm cards)

C – dance with scarves

Rhythmic Word Chains

Provide pictures of different shoes and shoe brands that students would recognize. Practice composing an 8-beat word chain. Split students into small groups and have them compose and perform for the class.



Air Force
Ones



Jordans



High Heels



Platform
Uggs



Adidas



New
Balance



The Shoemaker's Store

Rotate students between four stations. For my students, 3-4 minutes is plenty of time!

-Composers

Students create word chains of shoes to sell in the store window. They perform for one another. I assess them towards the end of the rotation time.

-Shoe Tie-rs

These students will have a step by step guide with visuals on how to tie a shoe with practice shoes available. (I like to have one student in each group who knows how to tie shoes so they can help others).

-Models

Students will put on 'fancy' shoes and practice walking down a 'runway' in them. I like to have all sorts of shoes but nothing that's too tall!

-Shoemakers

These students will be painting, hammering, sewing, etc., the shoes in the workshop. I have plastic hammers, paintbrushes and yarn with a few pairs of shoes to help it feel more immersive.

When it's time to rotate, I play the "Shoemaker's Dance" and students have to clean their own station and be at the next station by the C section.

Although this takes a lot of time and a lot of prep, this is one of my students' favorite activities and they ask for this and the Hot Chocolate Game over and over! The importance of learning through play is something I really value and I'm glad my students get an opportunity to do that in my room.