

Jackie Bristow songwriting workshops for primary school - Age group - 8 - 12 years

11am till 2pm at Shotover Primary School - maximum of 12 children

One day workshops x two available - Thursday 8th and Friday 9th Oct

Music can help people express their feelings in a way speaking cannot and songwriting takes it a step further. Songwriting is a form of expression and self discovery and can offer emotional stability.

How the day will look -

SING we will do some very early stages vocal warm ups and find a cover song to sing to motivate and build confidence before we start working on songwriting. (I am looking at songs from Shriek or another current movie soundtrack and will send ahead of time for the children to listen to in advance)

INSTRUMENT - teach 3 basic chords on the Ukulele so the children will have a reference point for making up melodies when we are to the songwriting. If by chance kids already play an instrument please bring it to the class.

SONGWRITING - Group project - We will brainstorm and come up with an idea for a song together using a whiteboard we will track ideas and no idea is a bad idea. No editing just free fall.

Make a list of the words that best fit our idea for our song, this is a safe environment and the children should feel no pressure and we are having fun being creative and learning to create a song.

We will then write a very simple melody, something memorable and I will show the group how we will put our words/lyrics to the melody and possibly to chords on the Ukulele. I will have my guitar is that is too much to grasp in one session.. everyone will have there own pace.. so I will need to gauge on the day.

From there we can work on structure of the song.

Starting with the most repetitive section being the chorus/creating a hook.

I would like to teach the children simple chords on the Ukulele and chord progressions to help start the song and make up a melody.

Structure of song

Start with a title

Make a list of questions suggested by the title

Choose a song structure (i.e verse/chorus/bridge)

Choose one question to answer in the chorus and one for the verse

Find a melody for your lyric

Begin to add chords to your chorus melody

Work on lyric in first verse

Connect verse and chorus

A bridge it isn't required but can add strength to your song

Use a smartphone or GarageBand to record

Children- primary school will most likely be a group project however we may split off into smaller groups depending on the size of the class and the different levels of expression.

HOW

1 - Establish a broad theme and subject for the song

Animals, gardens etc outer space

2 - Illuminate the theme - i.e book (children could bring their favorite book and also a note pad and pen)

3 - Make a list of words

Ask kids to name words associated with the topic

I.e what are their favorite animals

4 - Gather words and ask questions

What do animals like to do

Where do animals live

Adding words to the whiteboard

5 - Games to help with imagination and confidence and flow -

play freeze dance using words from the list

Having music ready and I will call out words from the list and the kids will act out what the word suggests...

i.e horse - the kids could gallop and make horse sounds until the music stops... and say freeze and stop music. This is just a bit of fun.

6 - Begin writing lyrics

Students sit in front of white board

How do we want to start this song

Have paper and pen to write down suggestion.

Find two lines that rhyme and start song with that line.. or lines .

7 - Rhyming words

Compile a list of words that rhyme, working on lines that end in a rhyme and help guide them with the to make it fit rhythmically. We can also play around with clapping and basic timing to help with this.

8 - Create music

I will play the guitar and show the children how to make a melody a very simple chord progression. If the children have grasped some simple chords on the Ukulele or already play an instrument I can show them how to make a melody on top of the chords but it is not essential they play as I can play the guitar and build melody around that. Using an instrument and trying improvised melodies. After a few examples we will choose the melody they like best.

9 - Song structure finding a hook and melody Structure

10 - Start with a title

- 11 - Make a list of questions suggested by the title
- 12 - Choose a song structure
- 13 - Choose one question to answer in the chorus and one for the verse
- 14 - Find a melody for your lyric
- 15 - Begin to add chords to your chorus melody
- 16 - Work on lyric in first verse
- 17 - Connect verse and chorus and bridge
- 18 - Sing the song TOGETHER and I will use smartphone or GarageBand to record
- 19 - Make an MP3 of the song and send lyrics and song to all the students to show there parents.

Timing and structure

- 10am to 10.30am vocal exercises and singing
- 10.30am to 11.00am UKULELE/ instruments.
- 11.00am to 11.10am morning break
- 11.15am to 12.30am songwriting
- 12.30am to 1pm Lunch
- 1pm to 1.30pm singing and performing the song together and recording.

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