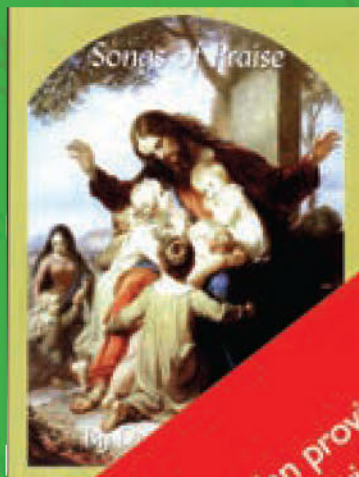




MUSIC K

COURSE MANUAL



LESSON PLANS AND REPORT FORMS

NOTE

This lesson plan provides general instructions and course guidance, but does not provide weekly or daily assignments.



MUSIC K LESSON PLAN

Introduction



COURSE MATERIALS

Songs of Praise (Catholic CD)

TEACHING TIPS

We are providing this CD for your child's enjoyment. We recommend that you have music class at least once a week. We encourage you to have the whole family participate in singing, using any songs you wish. Primarily, encourage your child to sing the hymns during Mass along with your congregation. Also, encourage your child to sing along with the *Songs of Praise* CD, as well as other children's song tapes. Maintain a pleasant and joyful attitude about your child's singing voice. If time is short, you may wish to play the CD while your child is working on an art project, or while your child is riding in your car.

We encourage you to involve your Kindergarten child in formal music instruction, if possible. At this age, your child is developmentally receptive to music instruction. Furthermore, studies have shown that music instruction given to young children helps to develop the child's mind in the areas of language and math thinking. Some parents think that their Kindergarten child is too young for formal music instruction. Actually, your child is more likely to learn music skills at this age than at an older age. Your child's brain is in a sensitive stage of development, when learning music comes easily. As your child matures, the sensitive areas of his brain shift from music and language acquisition to abstract thinking. By exposing your child to music at a young age, you lay a sensorial foundation in your child's brain for future abstract thinking.

Music instruction at this age can range from formal violin or piano lessons to simple practice with rhythm instruments. In addition to instrumental instruction, it is important to give your child opportunities to listen to classical music.

Try to provide opportunities for your child to see, hear, and touch different instruments. As you listen to classical music, ask your child to try to guess which instruments are being used to make each sound. Your local public library has music tapes and disks that are designed to help young children learn about musical instruments.

Your child can learn to recognize the different sounds of instruments. Start by clapping a rhythm and asking your child to clap the same rhythm. Discuss and practice basic characteristics of rhythms such as fast and slow rhythms. Listen to the high and low tones of any instrument, and ask your child to close his eyes and identify each tone as high, low, or middle. Ask your child to act out animals or other representations of sounds, such as hopping to the sound of quick music, and moving like an elephant at the sound of slow low music.

As your child learns to distinguish between the musical tones and rhythms, he develops a more sensitive perception of the different phonetic sounds in spoken language. Rather than simply hearing music or language as one whole sound, he develops the auditory perception necessary to hear each of the components of the whole sound. This perceptual development will help your child learn the phonics skills necessary to read. Music instruction in Kindergarten is well worth the time and effort.

