

From: gartenloop@yahoogro ups.com

Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 8:47 AM

Hi group, I hope you can give me some advice on this topic. I teach a class of 1 and 2 year olds and there always seems to be one child that wants to run and scream and this greatly affects the class. Pretty soon I have several running and chasing him and all is lost. No one is listening to me! I try to ignore the child and let the parent take care of them but at some point I have to stop teaching and focus on that child. Bribery with a sticker or surprise doesn't seem to work with this particular child. How do you handle this situation? thank you and I love musikgarten and hope to become official sometime,

I currently teach my own curriculum at local rec centers.

Mary

www.Rhythm-rhyme-and-song.com

Reply from Other MG Teachers:

--- In gartenloop@yahoogro ups.com, "katy gilberts"

I've tried a variety of things, and the advice I got from a couple senior teachers when I first started did turn out to work best: realize **this is an aural class**, and **let Moms know** before class and even remind them in class (they'll forget, as they're used to noise galore) **that noise interferes with aural learning.**

A child this age may or may not be able to control this, but the point is to make all the Moms/Dads realize that this is a new experience in a class, too, and likely "all of your little ones will take a turn taking a break" so they know it's normal.

When they are 3, they will need to be even more structured, although toddler and cycles has plenty of movement. As far as redirecting first, if that's what you prefer, I find that making sure "majority rules" is helpful to me planning activities. If most of the kids are up, change to a traveling or a free dance with scarves. However, sometimes when they are fussy, they need a beat action like sticks with a strong beat such as Yankee doodle or any number of toddler songs with that kind of beat.

It may seem daunting to tell a Mom to take her child out "for a break", but often the child wants a break. Children love this class. But they need to know that boundaries are firm and other Moms need to know something more than anything, as far as retention and your mission for your classes: this is an aural program. We must reflect that we believe that. The Moms who see that you believe that will stay and the ones who don't get that it is YOUR class and you are actually teaching meaningful sequential progressing comprehensive musicianship will stay.

Can't please them all. And again, the best way I've gotten comfortable but firm

observance of this noise control in the toddler class is two fold:

1) explain to the whole group at the same time or email at the same time. If I'm doing it mid quarter, I may say that a recent workshop or reading reminded me that I may have needed to tighten the aural focus. You aren't perfect and they can know that, no problem. And let them know clearly that they simply need to quickly take them out but QUICKLY bring them back in, as "we'll miss you". And even say that this is a wonderful setting to get ready for a classroom situation. Many parents finally light up with that.

2) Focus on what you also can do to make sure the activities honor the movement needs, at the exact time they need it, of a child this age. The lessons given provide the activities, but the order your class needs them will change.

My two cents.

Katy, Seattle

Dear Mary,

I know exactly what you are talking about. I have the same situation with one of my students. Probably you have tried lots of things to save the essence of the class.

What I do is to reward positive things in class. For example, today was one of the first times that he waited for his turn to play the drums. All I said was "Very good Carlos, great job, if you keep working so well in class I'll give you a second chance to play the drums" Positive reward is a great tool. He seems to be very pleased with having a second chance to do it. Let's see what happens next time, but he is improving his behavior every week. Every little step in his progress is something to be proud of.

Good Luck!
Victoria

From: rabiegom <rabiegom@yahoo.com>
Subject: [gartenloop] Re: disruptive students
To: gartenloop@yahoogroups.com
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2009, 9:50 PM

Thank you for the wonderful advice. You are all awesome. I now have many ideas to try in the next class. I also realized that I was giving them too much space and have now started to meet in the corner of the room instead of the center. I block off with tables, and for the moving portion of class we can use the rest of the room. Thank you again.

Mary