

March 22, 2009

Dear Music Friends,

Music has always been a part of my classroom teaching and for years Kathy Poelker's music has been an integral part of my classroom. When I was approached two years ago to teach a college level course at Concordia University, Wisconsin titled, "Music in the Early Childhood Classroom", I wanted to introduce the students to her resources. I wrote a letter to Kathy seeking permission to use two pieces of her material in the course. The students in the class are not music majors, but are majors in education. I was astounded when she personally called me to discuss the nature of the course and purpose for requesting her material. She was most gracious in allowing my students to be introduced to her resources.

Over the summer I had opportunity to speak to Kathy at a workshop conducted on the Concordia Wisconsin campus. We discussed the music course and raised the possibility of having students utilize her material as part of the course design. The students were given opportunity to purchase her material as an optional textbook. We utilized both the CD and accompanying guide book, "*Look At My World*"

Students were assigned to select one of the songs in the collection. They were required to:

1. Teach the song to the class
2. Create a chart showing rhythm, melody, or lyrics to the selected song
3. Springboard from the song into a musical concept to be explored in more depth: rhythm, form, melody, genre, etc.
4. Integrate the musical selection into a content area and develop a lesson that utilized it.
5. Teach that lesson to the class.

Students were eager to do this and provided new ideas and resources to be companion material to the work. They also provided copies to each of the students in the class. At the end of the semester, these students left the class with a terrific resource and teaching ideas for their own classrooms.

The project was eagerly received and well developed and I look forward to utilizing Kathy's resources not only in my own kindergarten classroom but also in the college course I teach. If you are in need of excellent materials and resources, I'd highly recommend you contact Kathy. She has been genuinely interested and helpful in the education of students of every age and stage!

Sincerely,

Cindy Wachs

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