

Wollongong Workshop Overviews

Saturday 12 November

Active Music Workshop – Combining Music and Sport

This interactive workshop provides participants with inspiring information, practical ideas and exciting activities which can be used to introduce simple percussion instruments into the everyday life of the OSHC environment. In particular, we will focus on games and activities that engage a very broad range of children by combining music and sport together. We call this *Active Music*!

Participants will gain:

- Increased confidence to ‘tap’ into their inherent rhythm!
- Knowledge of the latest research supporting the unparalleled developmental benefits of *active participation* in music.
- The realisation that music need not be considered a separate ‘subject’ or ‘learning area’, but rather as an incredibly diverse and fun medium which can be easily incorporated into the existing practices and everyday life of the OSHC environment.
- An appreciation of the essential and age appropriate role of percussion instruments in this process.
- Hands-on tips and techniques for using percussion instruments.
- Knowledge of tried and tested games and ideas designed to integrate the use of percussion instruments into the everyday life of the OSHC environment.
- Printed activity and fact sheets to consolidate the information.

Sunday 13 November

Homemade Music

Recent global research discoveries into music and brain development have supported the finding that *active participation* in music directly contributes to brain development by dramatically increasing the interconnections between brain cells. It also has a profound and positive impact on a child’s physical, emotional and social development. The myriad of benefits which result from active participation in music are too important to ignore!

Rhythm is innate in all of us. The first sound that every human being hears and feels from conception is the rhythm of their mother's heart beat in the womb. Yet, in our ‘western’ society, it is not uncommon to hear adults profess that they have no rhythm. This is simply not true! We have just forgotten a skill which we all intuitively have from birth.

The use of music (particularly percussion) as a hands-on activity in the OSHC environment already faces a major obstacle with so many adults believing (misguidedly!) that they have no rhythm. We needn’t let the high cost of instruments create yet another barrier to our children having access to active participation in music... when you can make so many fun and exciting instruments from everyday household items and recycled materials for little or no cost at all!

This fun and interactive large group workshop provides participants with a percussion performance played on 'homemade' musical instruments and then the chance to make an instrument of their own. We'll also have lots of fun learning and playing musical games and activities with the instruments we make!

Presenters Bios

Brendan Gilmour (LLB, B.Ed) is a senior partner and founding member of innovative children's edutainment group - **The Beats Bus** (www.thebeatsbus.com.au). In this role, Brendan has written and presented countless interactive music workshops and performances in both the OSHC and early childhood environments. An accomplished musician - with Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) senior qualifications in Pianoforte, Music Theory and Saxophone - Brendan has been playing drums and percussion for almost two decades. He has over 10 years experience working with children, locally and internationally, in a variety of educational settings. Brendan also holds a *Bachelor of Laws* and a *Bachelor of Education* and is a registered primary school teacher in Queensland. He is a dedicated advocate of the importance of active participation in music for the developing brain, body and soul and is passionately committed to inspiring and empowering young children to become lifelong learners and lovers of music!

Shea Smith (BCI) is a senior member and creative director of **The Beats Bus** team. Shea is a highly qualified actor and musician, holding a Bachelors degree in Creative Industries, and is currently completing further study in film production. He is a well respected and accomplished percussionist on both electronic and acoustic drums. His experience ranges from live performance to studio recording across many genres of music. Shea has formalised this experience by successfully completing percussion exams through the Trinity College of London. Shea has over five years experience working with children of all ages and has planned and implemented play based programs for local council. He has also been writing and presenting original and exciting music workshops and performances for the OSHC environment for over four years with **The Beats Bus**. Shea is committed to combing his true passions of acting and music in his goal to provide children of all ages with original, fun and creative musical experiences.

Combined Bio

Brendan Gilmour (LLB, B.Ed) and Shea Smith (BCI) having been working collaboratively for over four years as part of the innovative children's music group **The Beats Bus**. Brendan is a qualified primary teacher and multi-instrument musician whilst Shea is a qualified actor and highly accomplished percussionist. They have collectively had over 15 years experience working with children in a variety of fields and have both written and presented countless interactive music workshops and performances in both the OSHC and early childhood environments. Brendan and Shea are both passionately committed to inspiring and empowering young children to become lifelong learners and lovers of music!