



Uke Can Do It!

Presented by Tammy Carley
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My Background

Currently in my 26th year of Teaching K-12 Music

- 5-12 band director for 15 years

- K-5 Elementary Music Teacher for the last 11 years

- Currently teach in a rural district where I educate 600 K-5 students on a five day rotation, 45 minute classes

- Started using the musicplay curriculum in 2014 and have attended several symposiums around the country.

- I am percussionist so I LOVE teaching instruments in my classroom

- Have had several teachers from local colleges

- Volunteer at local colleges to give presentations on making Elementary Music Fun to Teach!

Why Teach Ukulele?

- Develops fine motor skills
- It is beginner friendly (I start teaching students in 3rd grade)
- You can introduce your students to many genres of music
- It is an activity can do alone or with a group
- Students find success and feel good about themselves



Funding For Your Program

-Several ways to get your program started:

- Well known business in the community
 - I asked a concrete company in the community to help fund a ukulele program. The owners had students in my elementary school.
- Go fund Me? PTO? Donations from community members at concerts?
- Budget- have a plan to discuss with administration
 - 200+ students use my ukuleles every year
 - Offer a summer school class



Which Brand and Style to Buy?

- 4 sizes of ukuleles
 - Soprano, concert, tenor, and baritone
- Beginner- I would recommend a soprano-
 - Economical, great for working on hand/eye coordination

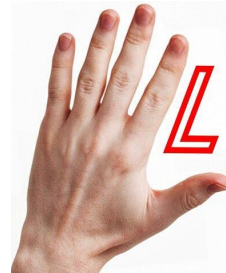
Best economical brands:

Diamond Head, Kala , Lanikai, Luna

Price Range- around \$40 and \$80 with vinyl storage case

Basic Fundamentals With Students

- Teach students history of instrument- show Hawaii on the map, how to handle cases, value of the instrument and storing case under chair during rehearsal
- Sitting arms length apart - enough space
- Demonstrate, Demonstrate! Be a mirror image to them. First show the parts of the instrument, then wiggling fingers, direction of instrument, and hugging it.
- All my students learn right handed.



Success With First Lesson

Tune all instruments prior to 1st lesson

Chord Chart- print chord sheets out and place them for reference for students in the classroom

- Show musicplay chord on smartboard for kids to learn how to read the chart

Have students repeat what you say to reinforce understanding where to place fingers

C7 Chord is the perfect 1st chord for success

Coconut

Ukulele tutorials

4 beat Strumming Patterns- 4 quarter notes, quarter eighth eighth (repeat) , eighth eighth quarter (repeat), all eighth notes

Having student take hand off and put back on several times for practice Students show their neighbor for help/reassurance as well

- Great first lesson- do not overwhelm students (entire process takes about 15 minutes)
- Smile- students should smile and sing when they are playing- happy instrument!

2nd Lesson on Ukulele

- Make sure to review handling of instrument, direction, and finger movement, and spacing before getting instruments out to play
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- Review C7 Chord and Coconut- show success with one chord

Many great songs to choose from:

Ukulele in C

Jambalya- Easy Ukulele in C

Chord Poster- I have these very visible in front of the room

Enjoying the Process of Teaching Ukulele

- Always review the basics and reinforce they "hold them like babies"
- Review the songs that they already know before adding another one to their repertoire

Make learning FUN! Watch for frustration and have students help each other.

Assessment:

- After 5-6 lessons, they need to be able to play three chords for me. C, G and Am.
- Passing gets them the Green Light to ask for one for their birthday, Christmas, ect. (I discuss this after the 1st lesson with expectations)
- Ukulele Parent Letter
- Some students need to wait until 4th grade for better hand/eye coordination

Navigating MusicplayOnline and Other Resources for Ukuleles

Where to find the resources:

[Instruments/Ukulele](#)

[Pop Songs in C](#)

Other resources:

[Easy Ukulele -Youtube](#)

[Ukualiens- Ukulele Club](#)



Questions?

Storage:

Students are in charge of caring for and storing the instruments properly.



When promoting and investing in this program, shoot for the stars so you can try and land on the moon!