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Adult learners and musical activities

It's not only young learners who benefit from using musical activities to develop language and literacy practices.

Beyond learning vocabulary through songs, there are so many benefits in terms of tuning in to pitch change, rhythmic patterns and the effects of volume and tempo, which are key components of language use, whatever your age. Music can also be a way to support memory, improve group cohesion and learner confidence, which many adult learners need – including me!

I returned to full-time study this year (Speech and Language Therapy) - I like a challenge. After a two-hour lecture on the structure of the larynx, our What'sApp group was full of despondent comments about the impossibility of retaining it all. Until somebody shared a YouTube video featuring a cartoon larynx singing about itself, and pointing out the connections between all the cartilages, ligaments and muscles. Those 3 minutes transformed the mood of the group, and made us feel that we stood half a chance of remembering the material.

So even if you are teaching business people or postgraduate students, don't dismiss the idea of using musical activities to tackle different aspects of learning – including improving the mood and cohesion of the group.

I'm delighted to be taking part in the @Sendgroupuk webinar series on Tuesday 16th March, when I'll be talking about this topic, and sharing some ideas of how to implement it in the classroom. <https://www.sendgroup.co.uk/event/using-musical-activities-to-support-neurodiverse-learners/>

Join me at the SEND group webinar, or visit www.ELTwell.com/music to find out more.

(And if you are curious to see a singing larynx, the video by Human Body for Kids is here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7CpkEszksI&list=RDC7CpkEszksI&start_radio=1)