

# The Application of Orff Teaching Method in Children's Drama Education in China

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## Abstract

**This paper aims to explore the application of Orff teaching method in children's drama education in China. Through the introduction and analysis of Orff's teaching method, this study found that Orff's teaching method and China's children's drama education have common concepts, such as paying attention to students' autonomous learning, physical participation and creative expression. However, at present, some children's drama education in China pays too much attention to traditional drama performance skills and lacks innovation and diversity. This study believes that the application of Orff teaching method in children's drama education can solve this problem. Specifically, Orff teaching method can guide children's singing and dancing expression, encourage role-playing and scene simulation, promote children's creation and adaptation of scripts, and enrich performances with music and rhythm. Through these teaching methods, children can fully develop and cultivate their artistic expression ability, creativity, cooperation spirit and self-confidence. This study holds that educators should actively integrate Orff's teaching method into children's drama education in China, so as to promote children's all-round artistic development and cultivate their aesthetic ability.**

## Keywords

**Orff teaching method, China children's drama education, Creative expression, Role-playing, Music and rhythmic performance.**

## 1. Introduction

"Dig, dig, dig in a small garden ..." A light and pleasant short video is popular in China's major short video platforms, which has reached 242.45 billion times by June 21st, 2023, and the blogger "Music teacher is full of flowers and wealth" has gained 7.94 million, which has caused many netizens to imitate and re-create. The teaching method adopted in this short video once again introduces the public's vision, that is, Orff teaching method.

Orff teaching method is a comprehensive teaching method founded by German music educator Carl Orff, aiming at promoting students' all-round development through music, dance, drama and creation. This teaching method emphasizes students' autonomous learning, physical participation and creative expression, and stimulates students' imagination, creativity and expressive ability through interesting and challenging learning activities.

China's children's drama education refers to the educational activities carried out through drama art forms, aiming at children's characteristics and needs. It aims to cultivate children's creativity, expressive ability, cooperative spirit and self-confidence and promote their all-round development.

There is a common concept between China's children's drama and Orff's teaching method. The traditional music education in China is presented in the form of singing and dancing, while Orff's teaching method emphasizes the teaching method of combining various arts, and the two have reached a conceptual agreement. At present, some children's drama education in China pays too much attention to traditional drama performance skills and lacks innovation and diversity. The teaching method and content are too single, and there is a lack of personalized and diversified teaching aimed at children's interests and development needs. The application of Orff teaching method in children's drama education can solve this problem to some extent.

## 2. Guide Children to Sing and Dance

Orff's teaching method holds that music plays an important role in children's drama education, and children's singing and dancing are important forms of music expression. Orff's teaching method helps children to perceive music rhythm, melody and even emotions by teaching singing and dancing movements by kindergarten teachers, and finally expresses their inner feelings through audio language and body language. When children are in a relaxed and happy atmosphere, they can freely exert their imagination and creativity and cultivate their artistic emotion and aesthetic ability. In this process, every participating child showed his own personalized expression through performance, and through successful performance experience, children's self-awareness was improved and positive mentality and quality were cultivated. Orff's teaching method also emphasizes teaching in the form of chorus and group dance to cultivate children's cooperative spirit and team consciousness. Children learn to listen and cooperate in group performances, coordinate their movements and voices with each other, and cultivate good communication and cooperation skills.

Orff's teaching method plays an important role in guiding children's singing and dancing expression, which provides beneficial guidance and support for children's all-round artistic development by creating a positive learning environment, cultivating artistic interest, developing music perception and expression ability, enhancing self-awareness and self-confidence, and promoting cooperative spirit and team consciousness.

## 3. Encourage Role-playing and Scenario Simulation

Orff's teaching method emphasizes promoting children's comprehensive development through physical participation and emotional experience, and role-playing and scenario simulation are one of the commonly used teaching strategies in Orff's teaching method. Role-playing and scenario simulation can stimulate children's creativity and imagination. By playing different roles and simulating various situations, children can expand their thinking and imagination, experience different people and situations, and cultivate their artistic expression ability and creative thinking. In this process, children are involved in different emotional experiences and show their emotions through body language, language expression and performance. This helps children to express and understand all kinds of emotions, and cultivate emotional wisdom and emotional management ability. Role-playing and scenario simulation can put children in a comprehensive learning situation. By simulating scenes and roles in real life, children can learn skills and knowledge in many dimensions, such as language, emotion and social interaction, and promote their all-round development.

Orff's teaching method encourages role-playing and scenario simulation, and provides children with creative and physical participation in learning. Through role-playing and scenario simulation, children can develop their imagination, emotional expression and social communication skills, and get a comprehensive learning experience. This not only contributes to the cultivation of children's artistic expression and performance ability, but also has a positive impact on their cognitive, emotional and social development.

#### 4. Promote Children's Creation and Adaptation of Plays

Orff's teaching method advocates children to freely create and adapt scripts to express their thoughts and feelings. Children can exert their creativity and imagination in this process, and creating and adapting scripts requires children to express their creativity and storyline through language and performance. Orff's teaching method allows children to exercise their oral expression ability and improve their story-telling skills through music and drama activities, and encourages them to try different expressions and emotional expressions. By participating in the process of creating and adapting plays, children can understand and appreciate the art of drama more deeply. They experience the script structure, role development and plot advancement in a practical way, and cultivate artistic appreciation and aesthetic ability.

Orff teaching method provides a free and creative learning environment for children by creating and adapting scripts. Children can develop their creativity, improve their expressive ability and cultivate cooperation and team spirit through independent creation and cooperative creation.

#### 5. Use Music and Rhythm to Enrich The Performance

Orff's teaching method holds that music and rhythm are carriers of emotions and can arouse people's strong emotional resonance. In the performance, Orff's teaching method uses music and rhythm to help children better experience and express the emotions of the characters in the play, and conveys emotions through the performance of sounds and movements, making the performance more vivid and real. The use of music and rhythm can stimulate children's physical expression and sense of stage. When children gradually master the sense of rhythm, make their movements and performances more powerful and rhythmic. At the same time, the melody and mood of music can affect children's body language and body expression, so that they can show more colorful performances on the stage. In the teaching process, different styles of music and rhythms are selected to create different atmosphere and emotions, which makes the performance more diversified. Children can explore different performance modes and art forms under the guidance of music and rhythm, and cultivate innovative and diversified performance ability.

Orff teaching method uses music and rhythm to enrich performances, providing children with a more comprehensive and rich performance experience. Through the use of music and rhythm, children can improve their emotional expression and performance, enhance their physical expression and sense of stage, cultivate collective cooperation and team consciousness, and expand the diversity and artistic level of performance.

As an important means of aesthetic education, music plays a key role in the enlightenment education in kindergarten. Teachers should choose excellent music works and let children deeply feel the unique beauty of music through correct teaching and guidance. Through this experience, children can gradually discover beauty, recognize beauty, accept beauty, and gradually cultivate their aesthetic ability and ability to express beauty. As the leader of education, teachers' own music literacy, teaching ability, teaching methods and practical effects directly affect this process. Blogger "Music teacher is full of flowers and wealth" introduced Orff teaching method into public view, and more and more people began to understand and learn Orff teaching method. However, the survey shows that there are still 57% kindergartens that have not offered Orff music courses. It is an arduous task with a sense of mission to integrate Orff's music teaching method, an excellent teaching system widely accepted worldwide, and it is also the responsibility of our educators.

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