

SHANA BANANA

Family Music, Family FUN! www.ShanaBanana.com

Teacher Workshops--Overview

BACKGROUND

Shana “Banana” Smith is a nationally-awarded children’s musical “edu-tainer,” as well as a singer/songwriter, elementary school teacher, and mother. Her mother, an early elementary education teacher and preschool director, was her earliest influence in the field of education. She currently serves as director of “The Starfish Program,” an integrated arts program at Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, and continues to perform regularly as “Shana Banana” around the country. She has also completed her first television series, “Banana Bread,” which will be launched as an Apps series in 2012.

WORKSHOPS: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Shana Banana brings the same interactive format, motivational spirit, and enthusiastic energy to the workshop environment that are trademark at her children’s shows. Teachers are invited to move, share, create, sing, write, and even perform if they are so inclined! Shana’s role in her workshops is to present topics that spark teachers’ own individual talents and ideas in a productive and exciting format. Her topic selections (listed below) come from her years of experience developing effective and exciting educational programs for children’s audiences and the classroom.

WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

The complete list of workshops is listed here.

How to Use Music for Teaching Anything but Teaching Music

Preschool-5th

We ALL have a rhythm, and we all have a song. Music is a powerful tool for teaching and learning retention, engaging many parts of the brain simultaneously. But how, specifically, can we use music for teaching, and what can we teach? First, it’s important to clarify that this workshop is not about teaching MUSIC, but rather using music to teach, really, anything BUT music. Music fundamentals are best left to the music teacher. We will discuss how creatively using music, rhythm, movement, and interaction will effect real learning results in the classroom. We will go over tools you can use to accomplish this in the following categories: Reading, Math, Motor Skills, cultural appreciation, expression, and transitions, and offer examples. Finally, via worksheets and group work, teachers will use their own creative skills, strengths, and ideas to create

music and rhythm-based classroom learning activities. A discussion will follow to solidify the new ideas that are brought forth.

The Starfish Program Model: Integrated Project-Based Learning *K-5th*

The Starfish Program© merges the study of Marine Science with Music, Art, Drama, and Writing (the five arms of a starfish) to create an innovative and exciting learning experience. In this era of financial cutbacks in the Arts, educators realize there is a significant value in using the Arts for learning. This recognition becomes critical to the student's advantage to excel in today's world. "Children are natural scientists and natural artists," says **Shana Smith**, the program's creator. "When you watch a child play, you observe seamless transitions and interplay between scientific exploration and discovery and artistic expression. In the classroom, studies have shown that music, art, writing, drama and creative expression are all powerful tools for learning and information retention. The Starfish Program is designed to compliment a child's natural love of and enthusiasm for learning by merging science and art. Enthusiastic learners become successful students and citizens." In this program, teachers are introduced to some effective projects and tools for integrated learning, and invited to invent their own Starfish (or Octopus, or Frog, etc.) Program and create an integrated classroom project.

Banana Bread Life Kitchen: Creating Recipes for Life as Teaching Tools *Preschool-5th*

"BANANA BREAD" is the name of Shana Banana's new metaphorical cooking show (to be launched in App format in Spring 2012), introducing recipes for life. While the flour, sugar, eggs, oil, mashed bananas and baking powder are real ingredients always added the same way, the life recipe and its ingredients change on each episode. For example, in the "Good Health" episode, Banana Bread is made with the following "ingredients": exercise (flour), hygiene (sugar), nutrition (eggs), sleep (oil), and hugs (bananas). In the first season, "Banana Bread" covers the following thirteen themes and their respective recipes: Animal Friends, Bedtime, Birthdays, Bully 411, Cooperation, Counting, Courage, Good Health, Healthy Planet, Reading, Senses, Strangers, and Water Safety. Using a creative combination of fun, interactive songs, problem-solving with the puppets and characters, a superhero who always comes to the rescue, and cooking yummy bread, viewers are made to feel like a part of the show while they dance, sing and learn.

Likewise, Banana Bread Life Recipes can be created in the classroom "life kitchen." As with any "cooking project," students must wash their hands before beginning their recipe, to encourage good hygiene. What combination of "ingredients" can YOU mix together to teach a life lesson? Teachers are invited to make their own recipes and then present

them to their peers, followed by discussion and idea-sharing as to how to make these recipes work as hands-on projects in the classroom.

Banana Yoga™: Music and Movement

Preschool-3rd

Individually, music and yoga are powerful motivators and stress-reducers. Both music and yoga have been proven to have significant effects on the well-being of children. Both music and yoga have been proven to have significant effects on the well-being of children by relaxing the mind and lowering stress levels that inhibit learning. Yoga and music increase alpha levels in the brain to boost memory and recall, and both provide a positive connection between mind and body. Combining the two maximizes these benefits. Best of all, children, teachers, and parents have FUN while enhancing their focus, concentration, fitness, and self-confidence.

Banana Yoga™ approaches yoga from a fitness perspective, utilizing catchy, original music and classic children's songs to teach yoga, movement, breathing, and body awareness. Children as young as two years old are able to participate in this program, and there is an enthusiastic response through the elementary demographic. In this workshop, teachers will be given a wonderful and relaxing introduction to yoga via a mini-class. They will then be shown some ideas for adapting some of the basics of yoga, movement, breathing, and music/storytelling into the classroom, and then invited to invent their own yoga activity for classroom adaptation, such as telling a story through yoga poses, or inventing a new yoga song with movement to teach a learning concept. Teachers should wear comfortable clothes for movement to this workshop.

Bananimagination: Essentials of StoryMaking

K-5th

“Bananimagination” is one of Shana Banana’s most requested live concert themes--not only because it’s a fun show, but also because it has great classroom/home school applications as well, with a detailed study of story components and elements.

“Bananimagination” is the term Shana Banana uses to describe the whimsical and wonderful world of reading and creating good stories. Using original songs and puppets, she introduces the elements of plot, excitement, mystery, silliness, and adventure.

Children are entertained, kept moving and singing, and are encouraged to participate in the storyline and songs, all the while gaining an awareness and appreciation for the craft of storytelling and the importance of reading. Shana Banana warms up the imagination of the audience by doing a few interactive songs in which children practice pretending. The children are then introduced to the hand puppet dogs Hal and Henson, and are asked to use their own hands as puppets to help tell a story. Hal and Henson go for a walk in their neighborhood, and then go home. Shana Banana asks if that basic plot can be made more exciting by adding story elements (silly, mysterious, scary, exciting). Children learn that adding such elements to basic stories can help make the stories much more interesting, and Hal and Henson find themselves in an amazing adventure as a result.

Teachers are encouraged to devise original, basic stories which are then “spiced up” by adding story elements of their own choosing. Teachers are encouraged to use supplemental tools such as props, puppets, and songs to enhance the buildup of their stories, and are invited to present their creations and discuss how they would build their lesson in the classroom. Teachers will be given study guides for the program which they can use to enhance the unit.

Fairy Tales Gone Bananas

PreK-5th

A Fairy Godmother who has a fit of sneezes? A not-so-evil dragon prince who wants to plant flowers? A vain and bullyish beetle? A boy who jumps out of a giant peach? What other twists on popular fairy tales can you think of, and what can they teach? Step into Fairy Tale Land with not-so-classic characters who take children from America to Europe to Japan and beyond. With original ideas, Shana Banana demonstrates how fairy tales involve conflicting characters, magic, overcoming fears and other interesting elements to triumph and learn in some way. Complete with imagination, cultural awareness, and appreciation of individual and intercultural (and interspecies) similarities, teachers are inspired to work with their students to make their own favorite fairy tales “go bananas,” and help kids discover more about this classic genre. Study guides and worksheets are provides.