

Creative Module Hip Hop

Hip Hop and Children's Rights

This module demonstrates how hip-hop can be used as a creative approach to the subject of children's rights. Our partner CHIGOL in Chile developed it. +

CHIGOL has been using hip-hop as an educational tool for its work with children and adolescents for many years now. In 2012, children from the El Montijo Comuna district in the community of Cerro Navia (Santiago de Chile) founded CHIGOLITOS RAP and began writing and recording hip-hop songs together. Their first CD was called "Hope Callejera vs Bala Loca" and was produced in Germany as part of an FLG exchange.

CHIGOL's main goal with CHIGOLITOS RAP was to establish a creative, artistic and self-determined space for young people, allowing boys and girls to come together to learn and express their feelings. The space encouraged dialogue and helped young people take a critical look at their realities. The group was open to all children and adolescents from the community and there were always new people who wanted to join. This is how hip-hop became an open access tool in CHIGOL's work. The organization invited everyone who wanted to participate and make positive changes in their community. Different workshops promoted constructive learning and helped young people become the leaders of their own learning. An additional focus was – and still is – placed on teamwork. Throughout the whole creative and musical process, the young participants are expected to cooperate with one another, ensuring that "everyone learns from everyone".

In this module, CHIGOL shares its extensive experience in the area of hip-hop and introduces steps and methods for how to produce a hip-hop song about children's rights.

Learning goals – what skills will be developed?

The main goal is to use a creative approach to the topic of children's rights. In addition, the following skills will be developed:

- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Language skills and ability to express oneself
- Teamwork and communication skills
- Reflective abilities
- Tolerance
- Self-identity

Origins of hip-hop

Hip-hop first emerged in the mid 60s in the Afro and Latin American communities of New York's boroughs. It emerged with a culture of DJs who made music at street festivals. Next came the MCs, who were responsible for rapping lyrics along with the music, and this combination was called rap. Hip-hop also led to a movement of rebellion in the communities, as it was used as a form of protest against social issues. At the same time, graffiti culture and dance were also developing as additional elements in the movement, from which the four most popular and widespread branches of hip-hop emerged: DJs, breakdancing, graffiti and MCs. Over time, further forms of expression were also added, such as beat boxing or beat making.

How did hip-hop come to Chile?

Hip-hop first appeared in Chile in the late 70s to mid 80s in the neighbourhoods of Santiago de Chile. Breakdancing was very big at the time. Over the years, the culture became more and more popular among young people, even though Chile was experiencing the last years of the dictatorship at that time.

As a result of musical influences from other countries that came to Chile, hip-hop became a strong form of social protest, which it still remains today. A number of bands were formed, such as Panteras Negras, Tiro de Gracia, Jimmy Fernández, Makiza, F.D.A, Resonancia, Legua York, Calambre, Concret, Creenzia, Big Novatos, La Plebe, Salvaje Decibel, Portavoz, Dead Jonkie, Piwee Infranganty, etc., right up until hip-hop and CHIGOLITOS RAP came to CHIGOL.

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