

Music in the Early Childhood Classroom

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Hand clapping games and playground games

Overview & Purpose

Beginning Folk Dance – Circle Dance

- Concept of Gesture/Being in Relationship with other participants/creative movement
- Discussion of the concepts learned – connection with the Ohio Department of Education Music Standards – “What are they learning musically?”
- Discussion of the standards met and integration with classroom curriculum – “What else are they learning?”
- Extensions for the lesson (going from whole group to small group from imitation to exploration) – “What are they creating?”

Music/Movement Concepts Addressed:

Self Space/General Space

Steady Beat/Rhythm

Relationship

Problem solving and discrimination

Socializing

Locomotor movement

Folk Dance – Russian

Sasha! - Russian Folk Dance

- “Sasha! Sasha! Ras Dva Tri!” – point finger at partner – lots of drama!
- Right, right, right, left, left, left, both, both, both, knees, knees, knees (repeat)
- Rt. arm swing – “Hey!”
- Left arm swing – “Hey!”

Great way of finding new partners non-formation mixer

New England Dancing Masters – “Sasha!” – Sashay The Donut

Music and Movement Concepts Addressed:

Locomotor and Non-locomotor movement

Relationship

Steady Beat/Rhythm

Group and Individual responsibility

Creation of movement phrase

Music/Game from African-American Heritage

Little Sally Walker – American Playground Game

- Create a non-locomotor movement (gesture) that shows what you loved to do as a kid
- Walk around the room while the teacher plays the piano (improvisation on the black keys) and when the music stops, practice your movement
- Stand in a circle and play “Little Sally Walker”

Little Sally Walker

American Playground Chant

CL $\frac{4}{4}$ Li - tle Sa - lly Walk - er, walk - in' down the street. She didn't know what to do so she

CL $\frac{4}{4}$ stopped in front of me; I said, "Do your thing and do your thing and do your thing and switch." "Do

CL $\frac{4}{4}$ — your thing and do your thing and do your thing and switch."

- Break into groups of three and do each person's gesture
- Decide which goes first, second and third (sequence)
- How can you do it as a group (simultaneously or in sequence of movement)
- What is the transition between movements?
- Perform for each other
- If time permits, discuss the success and challenges of this activity – especially for those who are new to movement – what if your kids haven't done this kind of movement before?

Assignment

- Find a playground game that contains the concepts of rhythm/singing/small movement. Good resources for playground games are:
<http://funclapping.com>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/FunClapping>
<http://schoolyardplay.com/clapping-games/>
- Know the origin of the game/culture
- Be prepared to teach it/show it
- Submit a paragraph write up on the game with its origin and teaching process.