

PizzIMMERSION

Professional Development Activities

Mini lesson plan

Title

Conducting activity

Materials

A clear space in the classroom

Year level suggested

Years F-10

Useful for

Brain breaks
Coordination skills
Sense of pulse
Leadership skills
Confidence building

Learning intention

To engage students to use nonverbal cues to communicate (as a conductor!), and give them a musical language.

Steps

1. With your preferred hand create a circle between your second finger and thumb
2. Count in 4 (in musical terms we call this 4/4 time)
3. For beat 1, the hand starts a little above the middle of the torso and comes down to “bounce” at a lower point just below the middle of the torso; beat 2 goes across the body to left hip; beat 3 crosses the body just past the right hip; beat 4 goes back towards middle and up to be ready for beat 1
4. Choose your speed and then show it by counting “1, 2, 3, 4” to start. (Alternatively breathe in before beat 1 at the speed you want, like you were going to speak.)
5. Make clear the exact point you want the group to play (like the moment a falling ball bounces on the ground) and whether loud or soft
6. To give the group the command to make their sound, simply open both hands out in a gesture to play
7. To stop the sound, close both hands simultaneously like you are grabbing two large apples from a tree. Create loud dynamics by bringing hands up to high; soft by bringing hands down low. Explore ways to create sound dynamic changes eg: for clapping use more or less fingers and/or change the rate of clapping.
8. Allow students to conduct whilst the class (orchestra) makes body percussion sounds in response (body perc link)

Extension - Left hand can gesture these commands if the beat is being kept by the right hand

Variation - Pattern of 3: beat 1 is the same; beat 2 goes to the right; beat 3 back towards the middle and up

Curriculum links**Music**

- Explore and Express Ideas
- Music Practices
- Present and Perform

Capabilities

- Personal and Social
 - Social Awareness and Management, Collaboration

Need support?

Email *PizzASSIST*, education@mso.com.au
and quote *PizzASSIST* in the subject line