



All Hands On Deck

A DRUM CIRCLE PROGRAM BY DAN REIFF

All Hands On Beat ~ Kindergarten Program

APPROACH:

To show that rhythm and music is universal, something anyone at any age or stage can do - if you have a pulse, you can play! I will use a mix of fun and simple rhythm games, basic instruction, and fundamental listening and cooperative activities to get everyone participating in creating and playing music together.

LEARNING GOALS:

- Pattern recognition through word play, movement and sound
- Communication and expression through an instrument other than voice
- Being part of the class community by listening, sharing and taking turns
- Playing the basic sounds of the djembe drum
- Listening and looking for patterns and rhythm in every day life

SINGLE SESSION

We will start with some simple rhythm games using our hands, feet, bodies and voices. This will get everyone active, listening, and having fun before introducing the instruments. For example, using our names to sound out clapping and stomping patterns, and trying the game 'lap lap clap clap' while saying our names. Also, dividing the group by numbers 1-4, and seeing if we can keep in rhythm by saying our numbers out loud in order. Then we will move to the djembe drums, learning and experimenting with some of the basic sounds. We will talk a little about what the drum is made of, and what we think it sounds like. Then we will play some letter and word games to help learn simple patterns, and create our own classroom beats. Lastly, we may introduce egg shakers with a game called 'take and pass'.

OUTCOME

To have the class learn the basic sounds of the djembe, and create their own rhythm that they can all play together with confidence and cooperation.

MULTIPLE SESSIONS

With multiple sessions these ideas can be expanded to include more instruction, games and activities to put students in control of the drum circle. By showing them basic signals, such as arm raised for 'louder' or lowered for 'softer', they can take turns leading the group, building confidence and trust as they learn to lean on, and listen to each other. We can also explore other percussion instruments and sounds, and discuss their role in bringing different tones to the drum circle. We can continue to create our own beats, play along with popular songs, and even record ourselves in the process.