

## **Make It Rain and Other Group Dances: Classroom Online Resource Document**

### **By Denise Machin**

This handout is designed to help kindergarten teachers introduce dance into their classrooms. These dances can either be used together or separately. Each activity is based on students participating at their comfort level and requires no specified technique or ability.

### **Make it Rain**

Have students stand in a circle. Before beginning the activity have the group practice each of the different actions. Once you are ready start each action, walking in a circle so that the students begin when you pass in front of them and have them continue that action until you pass with another action. Here is a list of possible actions in order.

- Rub hands together
- Snap fingers
- Clap hands
- Slap thighs
- Stomp feet
- Slap thighs
- Clap hands
- Snap fingers
- Rub hands
- Hands on lap (silence)

### **Warm-Up- See Dance in Everything**

This activity helps students realize that they are already dancers. While standing in a circle or moving through the space, and participating yourself, guide your students these directives.

- Act like you're really cold/ shiver
- Act like you're sleepy/yawn
- Pretend you are weightless/in a room without gravity
- Pretend like you are jumping rope
- Pretend like you are a seed, have a teacher or student water the seeds and bloom into a flower
- Pretend you are a tree blowing in the wind, and the wind is getting stronger and stronger
- Pretend you are an ice cube...and now you are melting, and melting
- Ask for suggestions or offer some that relate to other topics in your class

### **Painting Together**

This activity allows students to express their creativity and work together. Have students

stand on one end of the space. Ask them to describe the kinds things they would see on a farm. Ask them to start creating a farm where they are everything from the barn to the animals, encouraging them to work together and draw from their backgrounds and experiences. Show them the accompanied images if they need inspiration. After you, or they, are satisfied with the farm move on to creating the ocean, forest, or other landscape locations your students feel comfortable describing. The attached images are by Walt Curlee, Odile Kidd, Van Gogh, Claude Monet, and Wassily Kandinsky.

### **Reflection**

Have students share what their favorite activity was and ask why. In large classes have students make three groups, one for each activity. Ask each group why they choose the activity they did.

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