

Agoo Amee: A Classroom Management Chant

Excerpted from “Agoo Amee” workshop
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Original Context

“Agoo” is a West African word from Ghana that means “to pay attention or listen up.” It is a call for attention. “Amee” is a response to “Agoo.” It means “You have my attention.” This call and response could be used in different situations. If you shout “Agoo,” you should expect the response, “Amee,” to be shouted back. If you expect a whispered response, you have to whisper your call.

Experience

To introduce an engaging lesson based on Agoo Amee, you first need to make sure that you explain what it means to the children. Then you say to the class:

I am going to shout my “Agoo” so that you may shout your “Amee.” (Model this for the children)

Next I will whisper my “Agoo” so that you may whisper your “Amee.” (Model this for the children)

Next I will sing my “Agoo” so that you may sing your “Amee.” (Model this for the children. You may wish to ask the children to suggest other ways to say “Agoo” and “Amee.”)

Variation

The following variation of Agoo Amee is a wonderful example of gross motor coordination using a sequential pattern.

- Go through the Agoo Amee chant four (4) times
- Clap your hands four (4) times
- Cross your arms in front of your chest and tap your shoulders with your hands four (4) times
- Make two (2) fists in front of your chest and pump/push them outward as you blow out four (4) times
- Hold both fists in front of your chest and drop one shoulder (elbow now angling down) on one beat and then drop the other shoulder (other elbow angling down) on the next beat, repeating for 4 beats
- Cup your hands in front of your waist. Then, move your hands out to your sides and up over your head to create a circle. At the bottom of the circle (with cupped hands), make a low (“grandpa’s voice”) AHHHH sound getting higher (“baby’s voice”) as you raise your arms.