

EXPERIENCE: "Hey, Mister Drum" Echo Chant

ARTS ELEMENT: Music - Steady Beat, Tempo (fast/slow), Rhythm

MATERIALS: Mr. Drum, other instruments

INTRO: Steady beat is a fundamental skill in developing language fluency and one-to-one correspondence. The Mr. Drum game strengthens children's "inner hearing" - the ability to think of words in your head without speaking.

EXPERIENCE PROCEDURES

Step One - Rhythm Speaks:

Introduce Mr. Drum as a puppet who can speak! But he doesn't use words, so we have to listen carefully to understand him. When Mr. Drum says "hello" he taps two times (two syllables). Add more words to his vocabulary as the children's listening skills improve. Use this chant:

Hey Mister Drum, what do you say?
Hey Mister Drum, what do you say?
(Mister Drum taps two times)
HELLO! *(Children wave and echo Mister Drum's rhythm)*
(repeat drumming and echo four times)

Variations: *(Mister Drum taps three times)*
TOUCH YOUR TOES! *(Children tap their toes and echo Mr. Drum's rhythm)*

(Mister Drum taps one time)
STOP! *(Children raise their hands and echo Mr. Drum's rhythm)*

Step Two - Variations of Tempo and Rhythm:

Vary the tempo by playing a faster or slower steady beat. Or play a rhythm pattern and encourage the children to respond to the rhythm through movement (tip-toeing, marching, scurrying, slow motion, skipping, galloping, and sliding.)

Step Three - Instrument Variations:

Another variation is to play this game with **Mrs. Slide Whistle!** She may slide up or down and the children will echo her in voice and body:

Hey Mrs. Slide Whistle, what do you say?
Hey Mrs. Slide Whistle, what do you say?
(Mrs. Slide Whistle slides up slowly)
U-U-U-U-UP! *(Children stand up slowly, echoing Mrs. Slide Whistle)*

Closure:

What other instruments might you use to create instrument "puppets?" How could you use the instrument to explore steady beat, rhythm, tempo or other musical elements? Consider how you might integrate Mr. Drum into a story by introducing or repeating important vocabulary.