

Build a Structured Movement repertoire

Using Spotlight on Music, or Dance Music for Children, have students learn age appropriate structured dances. Sequence the learning of these dances from simple to complex, self to pairs to groups. The movement scope and sequence at the back of each Spotlight on Music Teacher's edition should be a help. Eventually, you might look into Teaching Movement and Dance, by Phyllis Weikart, along with her Rhythmically Moving series of CDs. Or you might consider the Shenanigan's folk dance CDs. In addition, there are structured dances in Total Literacy materials, published by arts education IDEAS.

- Begin with dances that keep a steady beat in scatter formation, changing movements every eight beats or at the end of each phrase ("O'Carolan's Draught" is a good example).
- Then learn a circle dance ("Seven Jumps"), or one with pairs in scatter formation ("Rocky Mountain," or "Sorida").
- Next comes a circle of pairs ("Hurry Scurry," or "I Let Her Go Go").
- A dance in two lines requires even more focus and concentration ("Four in a Boat," or a "Quadrille"), as does a dance with four in a group ("Cross Dance," or "D'Hammerd'migdesgeschellen").
- Reading and deciphering movement directions for "Tititorea" (Maori stick passing game), "Obo Asi me Nsa" (stone passing game), or "Mango Walk" (calypso dance) is great for reading directions!

Where do you find these pieces?

Arts education IDEAS materials:

Total Literacy: Early Childhood

Rocky Mountain

Total Literacy: Kindergarten

Rocky Mountain

Seven Jumps

Indo Eu

Interactive Arts for Total Literacy, Volume I: Primary

Magic Sound March

DETAILS

Rocky Mountain

Yankee Doodle

Obo asi me Nsa

Dance Music for Children <http://www.aeideas.com/shenanigans/#order>

O'Carolan's Draught

Cross Dance

Seven Jumps

Hurry Scurry (Fjaskern)

Other Shenanigans folk dance CDs: <http://www.aeideas.com/shenanigans/>

Spotlight on Music, published by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

<http://www.mhschool.com/products/music/index.html>

Phyllis Weikart materials <https://www.westmusic.com/pages/home.htm>