

Name Dance

GRADE LEVEL All

BIG IDEAS OF THE UNIT

- A community can get acquainted through dance in order to work together and learn together
- A community of dancers and learners observes rules and has common understandings
- A community of dancers and learners can include people who have many things in common and many different strengths
- We can make a dance about anything

GOALS OF THIS LESSON

- To gather in a group and begin to build a community
- To meet each other as individuals and learn names
- To give each participant an opportunity to lead the group
- To use gesture, follow the leader and accumulation to begin to create dance
- To look at and try own movement and that of others

BLUEPRINT STRANDS ADDRESSED

DESIRED STUDENT OUTCOMES – Students will KNOW and BE ABLE TO DO:

See Blueprint Learner Outcomes

Students will know:

- The names of their classmates

Students will be able to:

- Improvise and set a movement that represents their own name
- Make variations of their movement (e.g. change size, speed, body part, add an action, etc)
- Learn the accumulated sequence of movements and reverse it

ASSESSMENTS (I will measure student learning by)

- Observation - Are classmates beginning to use each others names?
- Video
- Use of the Name Dance as a warm up in a following lesson
- Guided discussion and reflection after the movement experience

MATERIALS / MUSIC

none

Lesson Plan

INTRODUCTION / WARM-UP

Gather in a circle sitting or standing. Go around the circle. Each person says his or her name. Go around again. Go around and say your name as slowly as you can. Go around the other way. Go around and say your name as quickly as you can. Go around the other way. Have fun.

PRESENTATION OF PROBLEM/THEME

Close your eyes and imagine a gesture for your name. We are going to go around the circle. When we come to you, you will be the teacher as we say your name and copy your gesture. We will be following you.

DEVELOPMENT / ELABORATION

One person says their name and does a simple gesture. Repeat.

All try until the name and gesture is learned. Try to establish a rhythm. Emphasize: When it is your name, you are the leader. We must count on you to remember your gesture.

Go to the next person. Watch gesture. Repeat until everyone learns. Do two names together. Continue to third person in circle. Ask for gesture. Everyone learn. Try all three together. Name and gesture.

Encourage interesting and rich movement. Ask: What other body parts can you use? Can you make your movement large and full – stretch it out? Can you do a movement with a turn? A jump? Can you do a movement that changes direction? That travels into the circle? Can you do a movement with an interesting rhythm?

If group is large, try learning the next two, three, or four names and gestures. Then go back to first person and do all. Continue until all names and gestures have been accumulated. Try whole circle. Reverse it. Don't forget to start still and end still!

CULMINATION/SHARING/EVALUATION

Try the entire sequence of accumulated gestures around the circle. This time do with gesture only - no names, say names silently. Go backwards only (reverse the order).

RELAXATION / REFLECTION

Lie on your back. Close your eyes. Let the names and faces you learned today go through your mind.

NOTES

Think of variations to this activity. How can you modify this activity for the age group that you teach?