

WindWand Activities

Item #10675

The WindWand is an exciting new piece of equipment that can be used when teaching movement concepts/dance elements (from now on the term movement concepts will represent both). Body awareness, space awareness, effort and relationships are movement concepts that provide information related to how a skill is to be performed. The movement concepts modify basic skills, thus serving as building blocks for exploring movement and creating dances. The development of proficient movement is also enhanced by encouraging children to use a variety of movement concepts when practicing movement skills.

When exploring movement concepts in a movement/dance class, the children may use the WindWand as a prop (an object to move with). Props often serve as a stimulus to motivate children; props make movement concepts visual, challenging and exciting. In addition, the use of props provides children with an opportunity to explore object relationship concepts. Object relationship concepts that work well with the WindWand include: over, under, around, above, below and beside.

This product guide highlights the use of the WindWand as a prop for exploring movement concepts related to space awareness. Once the children have explored individual space awareness concepts with the WindWand, they move on to combinations of space awareness concepts and forming short movement sequences.

Please keep in mind that the design of the WindWand may encourage students to think of it as a mini-parachute—IT IS NOT! Children should never jump from elevated places or engage in any other type of parachuting activity with the WindWand.

Movement Concepts for Space Awareness

Levels (Low - Medium - High)

- Move the wand at each of the different levels.
- Move two wands at different levels.
- Move the body at a different level than the wand(s).
- Move the wand(s) through the different levels (rising and sinking).

Directions (Forward, Backward, Sideways, Up and Down)

- Move the wand in each of the different directions.
- Move two wands in different directions.
- Move the body in a direction different than the wand(s).
- Move two wands in opposite directions.
- Smoothly change the direction of the moving wand(s) (transitions).

Extensions (Near - Far)

- Move the wand near to the body.
- Move the wand far from the body.
- Move two wands; one near and one far.

Pathways (Straight, Curved and Zigzag)

- Move the wand using each of the different pathways.
- Move two wands using different pathways.
- Move the body using a different pathway than the pathway used by the wand(s).
- Smoothly change the pathway of the moving wand(s) (transitions).

Once again, as an enrichment activity, encourage the children to create movement sequences using combinations of space awareness concepts. For an advanced level challenge, allow children to use the WindWand when exploring movement concepts in relationship to others.

Movement Concepts for Relationships (with others)

Leading & Following

- Child #1 uses the WindWand to create a movement sequence utilizing (space awareness concept/s) extensions. Child #1 initiates the sequence as Child #2 follows along. Remember to have the children switch roles.

Meeting & Parting

- Child #1 and Child #2 use WindWands to create a movement sequence utilizing (space awareness concept/s) pathways. At times the sequence should bring the two children close together and then move them apart.

Matching

- Child #1 and Child #2 use WindWands to create a movement sequence utilizing (space awareness concept/s) directions. Both children perform the same movement sequence—matching movement for movement. Often times, children will work side by side when performing matching sequences. However, you may wish to introduce the matching technique of shadowing—where one child performs the sequence from behind the other child.

Mirroring

- Child #1 and Child #2 use WindWands to create a movement sequence utilizing (space awareness concept/s) levels. The children will be facing each other so that the movement sequence will be identical except that Child #2 is moving the opposite side of the body. The effect is like looking into a mirror.

Some Other Fun Things

- Explore the nonlocomotor (axial) movement skills of swing and sway using the WindWand.
- Develop a movement sequence with a partner in which you switch WindWands.

- Practice turning your body while manipulating a WindWand.
- Develop a movement story using the WindWand as your principle prop.
- Demonstrate the story of plant growth using the WindWand.
- Develop a WindWand routine for a group.

- Watch that younger students do not become tangled in the strings of the WindWand.
- WindWands should never be used for striking.
- Remind students the WindWand is not meant to be used as a parachute, and is not strong enough to support their weight under such conditions.

Safety

- Do not allow students to put WindWands over the head.
- The WindWand is manipulated by a stick. Remind students to be cautious when moving with a stick in hand.



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