



Creative Music Room

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Elementary Lesson Plan

Musical Plates

Kindergarten/First Grade

Description

Musical plates is a fun take on the classic game musical chairs. In this version of the game, students are in circle formation with a plate in front of each of them. Each plate has a simple note, or easy rhythm written on it. Once the music plays, the students walk around the plates and when the music stops, they stop at the plate in front of them to read the rhythm they have. If they give the correct answer, they get to stay in the game.

Purpose: Students will

Learn how to read, speak and clap the rhythm in front of them.

Materials needed

- White paper plates.
- A black Sharpie pen.

Teacher Preparation

Have simple notes and rhythms written out on about 20 paper plates. Suggestions for content can be found on the following pages. Set up class in a circle formation on rugs or sit spots.

K/1st grade and musical plates, step one

Have the kindergarten students sit on their sit spots in a circle. Before passing the plates out, read through each plate for the class. Ask the students to clap, echo and speak each plate before the music starts.

Once you've read through every plate, pass the plates out, rhythm side up. Explain to the class that once the music begins, they can start to walk around the plates, in a circle formation. Once the music stops, the students should stop at the plate they are directly in front of.

K/1st grade and musical plates, step two

Once each student has stopped, the teacher will ask a student (at random) to read the plate they are standing in front of. If that student reads, speaks and/or claps the plate correctly, they get to stay in the game.

Angela's Advice: *This part of class can sometimes get a little tricky. Inevitably, students will want to stand in front of a plate they know the answer to, so if that plate is not the one exactly in front of them, they may want to wiggle their way to an easier plate. It is your job to guide them to the plate they were nearest to when the music stopped, and to offer encouragement that they can come up with the answer, no matter how difficult it may be. The following pages contain recommended rhythms ranked in order of difficulty. Feel free to begin this lesson plan with the easiest rhythms and add in the more difficult ones the second or third time you play.*

If a student does not get the answer correct, ask them to join you and even offer them an opportunity to help start and stop the music. Giving the students who get "out" a productive job helps them feel less defeated. Always remind the students that there will be more than one chance to play this game.

This is a very fun lesson and the students like to come back to it time and time again. Have fun!

Angela

Suggested rhythms for kindergarten through first grade musical plates





