

# BEING A CONDUCTOR: THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE!



"Technique is communication: the two words are synonymous in conductors. "  
*Leonard Bernstein*

## Goal

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The ability to respond to a cue from a conductor is crucial for a musician. By imagining the children's world and adding creative elements to your conducting technique, you can capture the children's attention more easily.

## Target Audience

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- Suitable for students with learning disabilities
- Group lesson

## Getting organised

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- Adequate number of musical instruments for all students present
- No desks, one chair for each student, chairs placed in a circle
- A book

## Getting started

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### Method 1: Everyone can be a conductor using a fixed beginning and a fixed end:

The students are free to improvise. Only the beginnings and endings are fixed. This can be the tonic or a previously learned short three-note fragment (cadenza). Start collecting a range of ideas for starting and ending and keep on developing.

### Method 3: To conduct with a book

Explore with the students all the things you can do with a book. Open, close, page through... Open the book slowly and close it slowly. Open the book quickly and close it suddenly. Use the instruments to get the pupils to respond to these book manipulations.

- Opening book: Making sound
- Closing the book suddenly: stop playing suddenly.
- Closing the book slowly: play decrescendo, until the book is completely closed.

- Turning pages: 1 note per page
- ...

### **Method 2: Improvisation and playing on command:**

Give the students simple commands such as:

- Play progressively from slow to fast.
- Play music from loud to soft.
- ...

In this exercise it is important to listen to each other and to be aware of each other's actions, so that the interplay is ensured and thus the interplay sounds faster/louder/... sounds great together.

Let the students make up their own assignments or try to give crazy commands.

- Play like a dog
- Make sound like a chicken
- ...

Enjoyment guaranteed!

### **Time allotted**

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🕒 10 minutes per exercise

### **References**

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Muzieklabo Inclusief, Academie Wijnegem - Schilde - Zoersel  
<https://muzieklaboinclusief.weebly.com/>