

CONCENTRATING IS A GAME



"A good drummer listens as much as he plays."
Indian proverb

Goal

Listening, adapting, processing and transforming. Being able to listen well to the music that sounds is the start of so many beautiful musical achievements. Focusing on this through listening games increases the students' concentration as well as their motivation.

Target Audience

- Suitable for students with learning disabilities
- Group lesson

Getting organised

- Adequate number of djembes and xylophones for all students present
- No desks, one chair for each student, chairs placed in a circle

Getting started

Dialogue

Students go in pairs in dialogue and play a 'conversation'.

By producing different beats and sounds on the djembé, 2 students engage in dialogue with each other. They take turns improvising a piece on the djembé, responding to what the other is playing. They learn to indicate clearly the final end of the piece while playing together.

The wave

Each student in the circle has a djembé. In turn, each student gives 1 beat. We try to make the beat sound as smoothly as possible in sequence.

Variations:

- 1 student becomes "the change-maker": when a student plays 2 beats on the djembé, the direction changes and the wave returns.
- 1 or more students become "change-makers", these students may choose whether they play 1 or 2 beats and thus change the direction.
- 3 beats: addition of predetermined body percussion (e.g. clap of hands) that

everyone performs when a student plays 3 beats.

- 4 beats: addition of physical movement (e.g. upper body turn 4 times to left and right) when a student plays 4 beats.

Take a picture:

Winter Theme: exercise 1

Put 4 or more pictures on a music stand. Make the pictures appropriate for the season or period of the year. Have a discussion with the students about what sound made using the djembé is appropriate for each of the pictures.

Picture of	Snow	Ice Crystal	Winter Mittens	Penguin
Rhythm				
Sound	Rub forward on the djembé's drumhead (sliding in the snow)	3 beats on the rim of the djembe	Play using 2 index fingers alternating on the rim	2 "doum" beats on the djembe's drumhead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play the pictures as they appear. - Let a student change the order of the pictures. - Let a student act as a conductor, pointing to each picture. 				

Winter Theme: exercise 2

Convert the rhythms for xylophone with color stickers attached for keys: agree on a color for each picture. Match the rhythm to the pictures using the corresponding color on the keys.

Picture of	Snow	Ice Crystal	Winter Mittens	Penguin
Rhythm				
Sound and colour	Rhythm on yellow (e)	Rhythm on purple (a)	Rhythm on red (c)	Rhythm on orange (d)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play the pictures in the order they appear. - Let a student change the order of the pictures, this way a new melody will be created. - Let a student be the conductor and point to a picture to create his own melody. 				

Time allotted

 5 to 10 minutes per exercise

Future Perspective

In addition to the exercise "Take a picture":

What do the pupils think about the chosen theme? You can always let them draw 1 picture themselves. It will enhance the imagination.

References

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