

Musical Sticks

Trend task

Approach: Team

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Focus: Movement to music.

Resources: 4 sticks, video recording on laptop computer.

Questions/instructions:

Put marks on the floor as explained during NEMP training.

I am going to play some music for you to listen to.

You will notice that it changes — it will have different rhythms, softness and loudness, highs and lows. I'll play it twice for you to listen to.

Click the **Play** button to start the video.

The music repeats 2 times; there is an "L" on the screen.

Click the **Pause** button.

I'm going to give each of you a stick, and I would like you to make up movements with the stick to go with the music. Your movements will need to match the music — think about how you will use your stick for high parts, low parts, gentle parts, busy parts, loud parts, etc.

The music will play four times.

I want you to really enjoy practising and experimenting with your movements on your own. I want you to stand in a circle on these marks facing out. Each time the music ends, move around the circle one place to your right.

Give students the sticks.

Here are the sticks. We'll start now.

Click the **Play** button

The music will repeat four times; on the screen: "I1", "I2", "I3", "I4" appear.

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE	% responses	
	2000 ('96) year 4	2000 ('96) year 8
inventiveness <i>use of stick, space, range of movements</i>		
strong	12 (8)	10 (7)
moderate	46 (39)	37 (27)
weak	42 (53)	53 (66)
response to music <i>appropriateness</i>		
strong	10 (6)	10 (8)
moderate	38 (41)	38 (34)
weak	52 (53)	52 (58)



Click the **Pause** button.

I'm going to play the music twice again, and this time I want you to work together in the circle to see if you can make up a group performance. This time you can face each other. I'll give you three minutes to plan how you will work together.

Give three minutes discussion time.

Click the **Play** button (it will play twice; a "G" appears on the screen).

GROUP PERFORMANCE	% responses	
	2000 ('96) year 4	2000 ('96) year 8
delivery <i>confidence, coherence, unity</i>		
strong	21 (18)	30 (14)
moderate	56 (39)	46 (47)
weak	23 (43)	24 (39)
collective inventiveness		
strong	21 (14)	20 (7)
moderate	50 (40)	42 (39)
weak	29 (46)	38 (54)
response to music <i>appropriateness</i>		
strong	12 (18)	20 (14)
moderate	50 (43)	54 (50)
weak	38 (39)	26 (36)

Commentary:

Year 4 and year 8 students performed very similarly. Group performance was rated somewhat higher than individual performance. Some improvement was evident from 1996 to 2000, at both year levels, more particularly at year 8.