

Noodle Drumming

Year 4

Summer 2

Unit Overview

Lesson One – An Introduction to Noodle Drumming

- The children begin the scheme by watching an example video of Noodle Drumming in action. This gives them an idea of how drumming with pool noodles works.
- Firstly, make sure you have enough Pool Noodles for around 6/10 children. I wouldn't do anymore than that at a time because of noise! When it comes to the Noodles themselves split a normal size noodle into 3. This will normally give you the perfect size. So, with 6 normal size Noodles you'll get 18 Noodle Drum sticks! But you can be as cautious or as adventurous as you like! When it comes to the other children in the class who are watching, what I like to do is give those children mini Noodles to use. I made these by simply finding some thinner foam pipe and cutting them into little drums sticks they can use on the table. They make effective practice drum-sticks (less noisy and not as big!).
- The instructions on how to play the drums are on the webpage. Read them through with the children and model the playing of them to the class.
- Lets do a quick warm up before we start. Let everyone tap the Noodles together in the high-cross position. Lets try tapping on 1, 2, 3, 4. The teacher can keep count. Next, ask a child to pick a number from 1-4. Now the class should only tap on that number. So if the child picks '2', the children have to listen to the count 1, 2, 3, 4 but only tap on the second beat. After you have tried this, try adding a second number to the count, for example 4.
- Now let's play to a song. Show them how they would play Levitating by Dua Lipa. This is a simple start and simply uses the High Cross action and the left and right table tap action. If you find the table taps are too noisy, it is a good idea to take the Noodles into a hall and they can tap them on the floor. Or, if you have space in the classroom they can use the floor of the classroom.
- Let around 6 children have a go at a time. Watch for those children who are really getting the beat and the pattern and maybe pick a 'super group' to show at the end of the first cycle.
- Next, move onto 'Believer'. In this song we add foot stamps. Once again, play the video and let children have a go after you have modeled the process.

Lesson Two – A Little Bit of Love and In The Air Tonight

- Recap the work from the last lesson when the children learned how to play the Noodle Drums in time with the music. Once again hand out practice drum-sticks and the main Noodles. As a warm-up let the children try one or two of the songs from last week.
- Now we are going to have a go at 'A Little Bit of Love' by Tom Grennan and 'In the Air Tonight' by Phil Collins. Both of the songs use the high-cross tap, the left and right table tap and foot stamps.
- Before playing the Phil Collins song maybe show the children the famous Gorilla Advert by Cadburys. This should get them in the mood for drumming the famous beat!!
- Let children have a go with the big Noodles in groups of around 6.
- In the same manner as last week, let a 'Super Group' show their work at the front of the class.

Lesson Three – Late Night Talking and Somebody Told Me

- In this lesson the children will add an additional technique to their Noodle Drumming. If you play the 'Late Night Talking' video, you will notice there is an additional set of Red Circles. It is entirely up to the teacher how these are used. They could be separate drums. They could be

taps on the table while the pink noodles are taps on the floor. You can use your imagination or ask the children to use their imagination for what the red circles could represent.

- With the new set up in place, let the children have a go with both songs. One by Harry Styles, the other by the Killers. They are more than welcome to sing along as they play. Watch for children who are able to keep the beat of each different technique in time with the music.

Lesson Four – Part Playing

- In this lesson the children will learn how to play their Noodle Drums in groups.
- Start the lesson by showing the 'Animal All Parts' video. This will give the children an idea of what their task for the lesson is. Ask the children what is happening. 3 separate parts are being played simultaneously.
- To become secure with the rhythm, we need to practice with one group at a time. Split the class into 3 colour groups. Let's start with the Blue Noodle Group 1. If you have the correct colour Noodles, then great, however, it is not essential, just as long as they know which numbered group to follow.
- Let 5/6 children play Group 1 to start with. When they have had a little time to practice work with each group in turn making sure every child has played their part. Again, if you have mini practice Noodles available these will be very handy.
- Once each group has practiced their part, it is time to try and put 3 groups together. The best way to complete this exercise is to let 2 children from each group play. This will enable you to spot any child that needs assistance or to see the children who are following the beat particularly well. Go ahead and let groups of 6 play at a time, 2 from each colour.

Lesson Five – Samba

- In this lesson the children will learn a collection of Samba rhythms on the Noodle Drums. Explain that Samba music is a style of music that originated in Brazil. Show the children the Samba example video, so the class can see an example of Samba music in action.
- As in the last lesson, split the class into 3 groups and let each group practice their part before combining them all together.
- This piece of music is at a fast tempo so it will be a good indicator of where the children are with regards to keeping rhythmic patterns in time with music. The easier track to follow is the Turquoise with the Blue and Red being slightly easier. So maybe split your group according to ability.
- In the second part of the lesson, allow children to come up in groups of 3. One following the Turquoise pattern, one the blue and one the red. Are they able to keep their beat, as the other two players play completely different rhythms?

Lesson Six – Composing a Noodle Drum Beat

- To finish the scheme, the children will take everything they have learned on Noodle Drums and compose their own multi-section beat. Ask the children to work in pairs or in groups of 3. In their group they must create a collection of simple beats that they can play along to music of their choice. The beats must follow a simple 4-beat count. Ask a child to continuously count four beats at a time to keep everybody together.
- Ask the groups to number themselves Player 1 and Player 2 or Player 1, 2 and 3 depending on how many are in their group. Player 1 thinks of their own beat. Player 2 and 3 think of different beats. For example:
 - Player 1 = Leg Tap, Leg Tap, High-Cross, High-Cross
 - Player 2 = Right Tap, Left Tap, Right Tap, Left Tap
 - Player 3 = High Cross – Both Noodles Tap

They then play these rhythms simultaneously. Can they keep their beat going? They have to show focus and solid technique to keep their beat going with simultaneous opposing rhythms happening next to them.