

CREATE A RAINSTORM

Age 7+

Topic:

A circle time activity in which children express themselves to collectively create the sounds of a rain storm

Key terms:

volume, speed, sounds, listen, performance

Estimated time:

20 minutes

Methods:

collaboration, observation, listening, performing

What we need:

Nothing but a suitable outdoor gathering space and at least 10 children.

As an extension try using loose materials:

Spitting - rubbing a tarpaulin

Small drips - homemade rain stick

Rain - Tap the ground with sticks

Heavy rain - hitting a heavy object

Activity description:

This activity provides a fun challenge for a group in their outdoor gathering space helping to develop their skills of focus and concentration as well as creating a performance.

If the group masters the rainstorm then why not try performing other sounds of nature such as a woodland, a seaside or a howling gale!

- Sit the children in a suitable circular gathering space.
- Split them into 3 equal groups
- Talk about how you could recreate the sounds of an entire rainstorm



Here are a suggested series of actions:

Rub hands past each other - Spitting
Click or tap fingers - Small drips
Pat thighs - Sustained rain
Stamp feet - Clap of thunder

- As conductor, you will: bring each group in; control their volume; speed; sound effect and bring them off.

Here are suggested gestures to communicate:

Point - to identify the group
Perform the action - for sound effect
Raise or lower hands- for volume
Wind your hand faster or slower - for speed

- Start quietly and slowly bringing in one group at a time until all 3 groups are rubbing their palms. Experiment with speed and volume.
- Continue moving through the sound effects until it is time for a thunder clap which works best if each group stomps in a Mexican wave!
- Perform the actions in reverse to recreate the tailing off of the rainstorm.

Curriculum Links:

- Expressive arts: music or drama

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