
ALPHABET DANCE

Kinesthetic learning addresses the needs of learners who learn best through doing. Teachers of younger learners often employ many types of kinesthetic activities, but these same activities can be adapted to meet the learning styles and needs of learners of all ages and levels. Dance is a great kinesthetic activity that offers a change in normal classroom routines. In this week's Teacher's Corner, we use dance to reinforce English literacy skills—in particular, the alphabet.

LEVEL

Beginners

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Speaking, Listening, and Reading

GOALS

During this activity, students will:

- Work together to create a dance that depicts the alphabet.
- Perform and teach the class their alphabet dance.

MATERIALS

- [Alphabet Song](#)
 - You can download the song and song lyrics [here](#).

PREPARATION

- Before class, organize students into groups of 6 to 8. You can put the groups together from your class list or plan to organize groups at the start of class.

PROCEDURE

1. Warm up the students by teaching them the alphabet song.
 - a. Use the audio recording from the American English [website](#).
americanenglish.state.gov

- b. If audio equipment is not available in your classroom, learn the song first and then teach it to your students.
2. Have students sing the song with you or along to the audio. When you get to the letter Y, make the shape of the letter with your body by raising your arms above your head.
3. When the song is finished, make the letter Y again, and ask students to guess the letter.
 - a. Ask learners what other ways they can use their bodies to make the letter Y. How can they make the letter Y with someone else?
4. Tell learners it is now their turn. Learners will work in small groups to create a dance that teaches the alphabet while singing the alphabet song.
 - a. They can use only their bodies to create the letters.
 - b. They will plan their alphabet dance and then perform it for the class.
 - c. Remind them that since they will be singing the song, they will perform each letter at the same time they sing the letter.
5. Put students into the groups you planned ahead of class.

For more ways to organize learners into groups in class, see this previous

[Teacher's Corner](#).

6. Give learners time and space to work on their alphabet dances, about 15 to 20 minutes.
7. Ask for volunteers to see which group would like to perform first.
8. As each group performs, encourage learners to sing along and copy what the dancers are doing.

VARIATIONS

1. One way to adapt this activity is to have groups learn the routine of other groups. This way, the group performing is teaching their classmates the alphabet and reinforcing the material in different ways.

2. Another adaptation has learners doing the alphabet out of order and silently. For example, one group performs their letter B without saying or singing the letter. The rest of the class can then try to guess the letter.
 3. For follow-up or extension, call out a letter and have all students make the shape based on their dance. For example, call out the letter H and watch as students make their versions of H with their bodies.
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