

Helpful Tip:

Circle Walking



"Ahh! Why can't my kindergarteners walk in a circle?!"

Why does it seem that when we want our primary students to travel in scatter formation they only herd around the room in a circle, and then when we try to do an activity designed in a circle they can't stay in the shape to save their life?! \odot

Yes, we must actually take time to TEACH our students how to travel in a circle! They don't realize that I am slipping it in the lesson--they just think it's practicing our locomotor words--but in reality we are using any number of Amidons or Shenanigans tracks to practice walking (skipping, jogging, etc.) in a circle and changing direction on the phrases. Sometimes I alternate this with standing still and keeping a beat on various body parts depending on the piece we are listening to. Another activity that I have found that helps with group circle walking are singing games like "Old King Glory" where the circle is additive and they have to walk around students who are sitting and everyone is eventually chosen and become a part of the standing, walking circle. We sing the song as many times as there are students, so even though it may seem long, they are getting lots of circle walking practice without really even realizing it! With a little bit of patience and lots of practice your little ones will stay in a complete circle in no time! \odot

Submitted by: Carolyn Stuwe, K-6 General Music, Pine Creek Elementary, cstuwe@bennps.org