

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING DANCE

EYFS: LIGHT AS A FEATHER



Show the children a large feather, pass it around the circle and ask the children to describe how it feels e.g. light, soft or tickly. Try to think of an action for your word.

Now introduce a small feather and blow it around the circle from one person to the next. Try to catch it with different body parts e.g. hands, nose, elbow, knee before it touches the floor.

Give the children a feather each. Explore ways of making the feather move around the space by blowing, throwing and catching it. Take the feather high in the air and low to the ground. Try to catch the feather on different body parts.

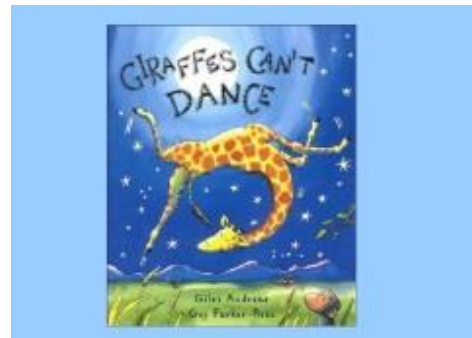
Bring the group back together by asking each child individually to place their feather on the large feather in the middle of the circle.

KS1: GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE

Explore the story 'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andreae.

The following themes could be used:

Describing Gerald: use a toy giraffe and pictures to help understanding. Look at the beginning of the book and create movements that explore:



Tall: tiptoe with arms stretched to the ceiling, jumping.

Neck was long: long still shapes.

Legs were thin: big walks with legs extended.

Very good at standing still: balances.

When he tried to run he buckled at the knees: shaking whole body down to the floor.

Think about jungle animals and their dances. Select different animals in the story and explore how they move and the dances they perform. Here is an example:

Rhino: stomping/ heavy walk, heavy jumps, spiky balances for their horns. Explore Rhinos doing a rock and roll dance e.g. a hand jive

Gerald's disappointment at not being able to dance. Use the following quotation: '*the animals all laughed.....so he crept from the dance floor.*' Explore creeping and hiding movements.

CREATIVE LINKS TO THE EYFS HOLISTIC CURRICULUM

MATHEMATICS and PD

The Can Can is an extraordinarily energetic dance with lots of jumps. Encourage children to use sand timers to see how many high bouncy jumps they can achieve in 30 seconds.

EXPRESSIVE ART AND DESIGN - ART



Can Can dancers wear glittery costumes and feathers in their hair, Create a troupe of can can puppets made from wooden spoons decorated with shiny fabric, lace, ribbon and give them feathery headdresses, too.

LITERACY

Share dance-focused story books such as *'Giraffes can't dance'* by Giles Andreae or the long-standing favourite *'Angelina ballerina'* by Katherine Holabird.

CREATIVE LINKS TO THE KS1 CURRICULUM

ART & DESIGN



Cut out exaggerated feather shapes in coloured and shiny paper, folding paper pieces in half before cutting to achieve symmetrical results. Arrange either as a montage stuck onto a background, or create a class mobile with feathers that dance and shimmer in the breeze.

LITERACY

The Can Can is a whose name is made up of two identical syllables – there are many more words that use this format - discover as many as possible. Here's a starter list: *papa, mama, nana, couscous, cha cha, goody-goody, glub-glub...* Some have just one vowel change: *trish-trash, spit spot, tip top, tick tock, ping pong*. Have fun making up some more!