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| --- | --- |
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**Barbara Deligiannakis, the music teacher of the school**

**Counting and clapping**

**GOAL:** With this game, the pupils learn to “read” rhythmic patterns and clap them in groups or alone.

The basic pattern we use:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

1st step: Draw the pattern on the whiteboard, empty and with the numbers beneath ( or on top ).

2nd step: Ask your pupils to count loudly and steadily from 1 to 8. You may help them pointing on each of the numbers.

3rd step: with the marker you start filling the pattern with “x”

 ( or hearts, flowers…), e.g.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  x |   |  x |   |  x |  x |   |   |

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Let the children explain how many “x” you put and on which numbers.

4th step: Now, ask them to start counting again, loudly and all together. You, the teacher, clap your hands once for every “x”.

Repeat the pattern and encourage the children to join your clapping, WITHOUT stopping to count.

After some repeats, all the pupils should count loudly and clap their hands.

5th step: Change the positions of the “x”, e.g.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |  x |  |  x |  |  |  x |  x |

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

(This pattern is slightly more difficult because you DON’T clap on the strong beat.)

Repeat step no 4.

Depending on the capability of your pupils, there are lots of variations of this rhythmical game, e.g.

1. Combine two patterns

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  x |  |  x |  |  x |  |  x |  |
|  |  x |  |  x |  |  x |  x |  |

Then you have to split your class in two groups.

1. Use musical instruments and let the pupils play in small groups.
2. Let the pupils draw their own patterns and play their “music” in front of the class

And…and…and…

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