

Teaching Tips for Folk Dance

When teaching a new folk dance, having a demonstration of the dance first may help children visualise it. This could be achieved using a video/DVD if available or a group of children who may already know the dance (i.e. a group of children from an older class)

When boys and girls are dancing together, the girl is always on the boy's right hand side. When clasping hands, the boy's hand is underneath the girl's hand.

Suggested approach for teaching folk dances

- Identify the steps in the dance
- Teach each step in isolation
- Divide the dance into teaching sections
- Teach the dance, section by section, using method outlined below
- Perform the whole dance

When teaching steps/sections of a dance you could use this method:

- Walk through each section
- Dance through each section without music,
- Dance through each section with music.

By having a demonstration of the steps with music for the children, some of them may pick up the steps naturally by hearing the music and seeing the step simultaneously.

When teaching dances with a number of sections: after learning each section, dance it with the previously learned section. Some dances may be too long to teach in one lesson. For example, if teaching a long dance with four sections, (a,b,c,d), you may like to teach two sections in the first lesson (a and b), revise these sections in lesson two, and then teach the remaining two sections (c and d).