

Create a Rainstorm

Age 5-9 years

Background

This activity provides a fun challenge for a group in their outdoor gathering space helping to develop their skills of focus and concentration as well as creating a performance.

If the group masters the rainstorm then why not try performing other sounds of nature such as a woodland, a seaside or a howling gale!

As an extension try using loose materials: Spitting – rubbing a tarpaulin Small drips – homemade rain stick
Rain – Tap the ground with sticks Heavy rain – hitting a heavy object.

Activity

- Sit the children in a suitable circular gathering space.
- Split them into 3 equal groups
- Talk about how you could recreate the sounds of an entire rainstorm

Here are a suggested series of actions:

Rub hands past each other – Spitting

Click or tap fingers – Small drips

Pat thighs – Sustained rain

Stamp feet – Clap of thunder

- As conductor, you will: bring each group in; control their volume; speed; sound effect and bring them off.

Here are suggested gestures to communicate:

Point – to identify the group Perform the action – for sound effect Raise or lower hands- for volume Wind your hand faster or slower – for speed

- Start quietly and slowly bringing in one group at a time until all 3 groups are rubbing their palms. Experiment with speed and volume.
- Continue moving through the sound effects until it is time for a thunder clap which works best if each group stomps in a Mexican wave!
- Perform the actions in reverse to recreate the tailing off of the rainstorm.