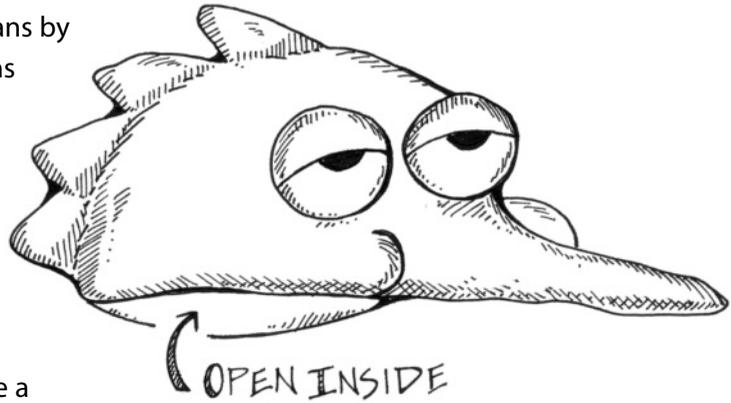


7. Make Chinese fans by coloring patterns and pictures on pieces of paper. Demonstrate how to fold each piece of paper one way and then another to make a fan. Staple one end of the paper to make a fan.



8. Play Chinese music while the “dragon” dances and the children wave their fans. Have a child clash the cymbals occasionally.

★ *Amelia Griffin, Ontario, Canada*

## **DRAGON'S TAIL**

GAMES

### **MATERIALS**

none

### **WHAT TO DO**

- Play this game for Chinese New Year. Explain the role dragons play in Chinese festivals. The Chinese New Year is celebrated on the second new moon after the winter solstice and ends 15 days later on the full moon. It can start any time between January 21st and February 19th, depending on the lunar calendar.
1. Form children into groups of 7 to 10, putting similar size children together so that smaller children are not overwhelmed by bigger children in the group. This is not a team game, so even one group of a few children is enough to play.
  2. Have the groups stand in a line, holding firmly onto the waist of the child in front of them.
  3. Tell the children that each of their lines is a “dragon.” The person at the beginning of each line is the dragon’s head, the middle ones are the body, and the end ones are the tail. If available, let the dragon heads wear dragon masks.
  4. Explain that the object of the game is for each dragon’s “head” to chase its own “tail” and try to catch it. The job of the body and tail is to protect themselves from the dragon’s head, while staying joined together.
  5. On a given signal (clap or whistle), the dragon heads start to chase their tails. The children must try and keep out of the head’s way—the more children there are in the dragon, the harder this is.

6. If the body of the dragon becomes disconnected (if one or more children let go of the person ahead of them), those children or anyone else who notices must shout, "Dragon, stop!" and the dragon's head must freeze until the whole body is connected to him again. Then the dragon's body or tail can shout, "Dragon, go!" and the chasing may begin again.
7. If the tail is caught, then the last child in the line becomes the head.
8. Play until everyone in each dragon has had a turn being the dragon's head.

**MORE TO DO**     **Music and Movement:** As the children play the game, play undulating music and point out how the dragon's body moves and flows. Use different numbers of children to make the dragon and ask whether a small or large number looks better.

**RELATED books**     *Dragon Dance a Chinese New Year: A Chinese New Year Lift-the-Flap Book* by Joan Holub  
*The Knight and the Dragon* by Tomi DePaola  
*Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats: A Treasury of Chinese Holiday Tales, Activities & Recipes* by Nina Simonds  
*Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch  
*The Tale of Custard the Dragon* by Ogden Nash

★ Anne Adeney, Plymouth, United Kingdom

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## DO THE DRAGON DANCE

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

**MATERIALS**

- 2' x 2' piece of tagboard
- marker
- scissors
- hole punch
- string
- rhythm instruments (bought or homemade)

**WHAT TO DO**

- Chinese New Year is celebrated on the second new moon after the winter solstice. It ends 15 days later with the full moon.

1. Draw a dragon head on a 2' x 2' piece of tagboard. Cut it out, punch a hole in the upper left and right corners of the head, and tie a piece of string through the holes so it can be worn like a sign. Or, use a dragon puppet or dragon doll.