

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

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DO THE DRAGON DANCE

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

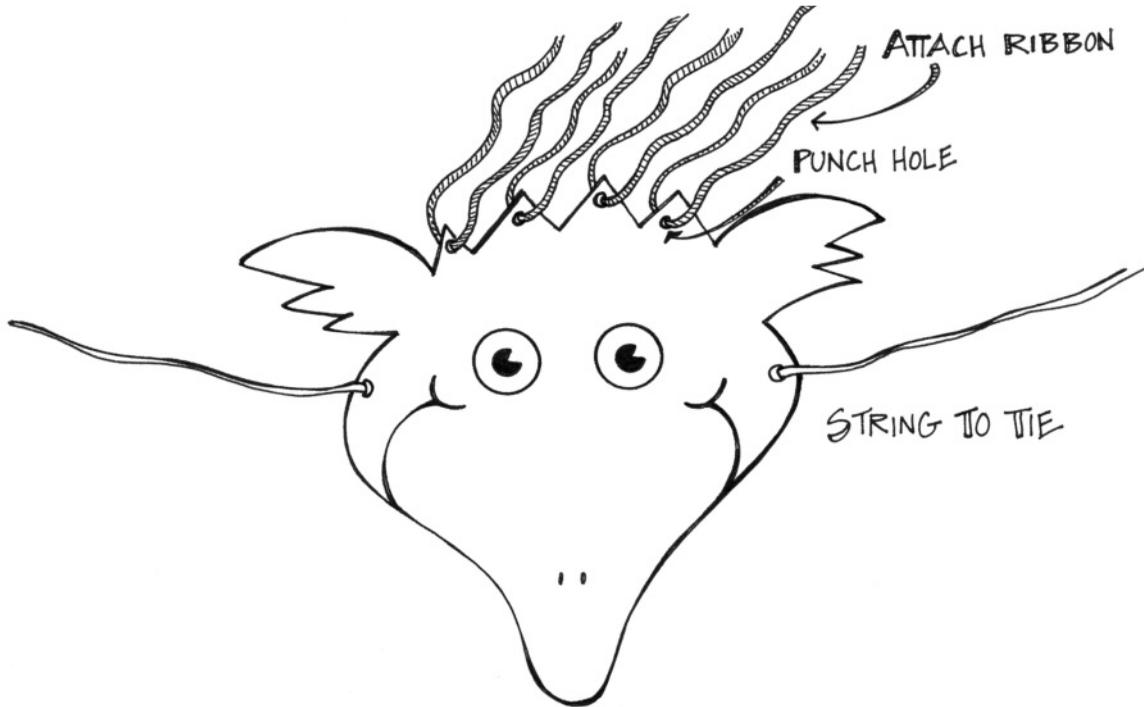
MATERIALS

- 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.



2. Read one of the books on the Chinese New Year (see related books below) to the children.
3. Explain that half of the children are going to line up and be the "dragon."
4. Have the child at the front of the line wear the dragon head or carry the dragon doll. The other children line up behind the leader and place their hands on the child in front of them.
5. Do a quick practice of snaking around the room together.
6. Give the other half of the children rhythm instruments. Encourage them to keep a steady booming beat while the dragon dances. It is best if they are off to one side in the "musicians' area." An adult should lead the children by playing a drum to help keep the musicians in beat.
7. If time permits, let the children take turns being the "dragon's head."
8. Have the dancers and the musicians trade places for a new experience.

MORE TO DO

Art: Reproduce a 6" dragon shape on card stock. (You should be able to put two or three shapes to a page.) You can also use an Ellison machine and a dragon die. Cut out one shape for each child. Let the children color the dragons. Show them how to tape the top of a craft stick to the back of the dragon to make a dragon stick puppet.

RELATED BOOKS

Chinese New Year by Tricia Brown
Dragon Dance: A Chinese New Year Lift-the-Flap Book by Joan Holub
Dragon Parade: A Chinese New Year Story by Steven Chin
Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year by Kate Waters
My First Chinese New Year by Karen Katz
The Runaway Rice Cake by Ying Chang Compestine

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