

Musical Hugs

3+

Materials record, cassette, or CD player
recording of song with lots of rhythm

- What to do**
1. This activity is a fun way to transition to group or circle time.
 2. Choose upbeat music that everyone likes.
 3. Explain that in this game the children put their arms around each other's shoulders and link up in a line. The children must keep time to the music with some sort of action, not necessarily all the same, but they must remain linked and moving to the music.
 4. Play music, and after a few minutes, stop the music. Tell everyone to find someone to hug. They stay connected and dance until the game ends.
 5. Start the music, and after a few minutes, stop the music again. Tell the partners to find another pair to link to. Now you have groups of four children linked together in a line, moving to the beat of the music.
 6. Start the music. Continue as before until you have one giant hug by forming a circle with each person's arm around the shoulder of the person on either side of him.

★ Jackie Wright, Enid, OK

I Can Wait

3+

Materials books or theme-related item

- What to do**
1. To help children wait while everyone is coming to group or circle time, place a book at each child's spot to look at while they're waiting for the others to join the group.
 2. Or, when the children take their spots, give them a theme-related item that will lead into the group lesson. Let children guess what the item is about. The following items would be perfect: cardboard shape, letter or numeral, feather, rock, piece of string or cloth, seashell, ribbon, or a large item to pass around.

(continued on the next page)

Group or Circle Time

3. The first person seated in the “ready to learn” position can be the holder of a special object, stuffed animal, puppet, or magic rock.

More to do

If you prefer not to have a permanent large group configuration, invest in carpet squares for “sit-upons,” which are 12” x 18” vinyl pads. Place the labeled pads in the group arrangement you need for particular activity. Hiding a piece of tape or card under the pad serves the purpose of choosing who will go first, who is the leader, or who has a special job for the selected activity.

★ Susan R. Forbes, Daytona Beach, FL

Puppet Songs

3+

Materials

puppets

What to do

1. When some children are waiting for group or circle time to begin, grab your box of puppets and let a child come up and choose one to hold.
2. They may want a friend to come up and join them with a puppet if they like less attention on themselves.
3. The child (or children) can choose a song to sing for the group, or sing with the group. If you have enough puppets, the children who are waiting can each have a puppet to help the group sing songs together.



Related books *The Book of Kids Songs* by Nancy and John Cassidy
If You Give a Moose a Muffin by Laura Joffe Numeroff
Louie by Ezra Jack Keats

★ Laura Durbrow, Lake Oswego, OR