

Large Group Activity Time

Large Group Activities are any activities the whole class does together.

Large group time lasts 15-20 minutes

Large group time is based on: child's interest, a music or movement key experience, cooperative play/projects (games, stories, etc) or current events (holidays, seasons, etc).

Examples of large group time activities:

Familiar songs

New songs

Dances

Using streamers

Games

Stories

Instruments

Obstacle course

Beginning of large group:

Teacher gains the children's attention by a song, story, or fingerplay.

Large group begins even if all children aren't there yet

Middle of large group:

Children are free to use the materials or move in their own way.

Children are given choices whenever possible.

Teacher sings, moves, or plays alongside the children copying their ways.

End of large group:

Teacher gives a closing to the activity

Children are given warning that large group time is ending and what is next

Children help clean up any materials

Movement or song transitions lead children to the next activity.

Common problems with large group time;

- Large group time is too long
- Teachers are too directive
- Children are not allowed to use the materials in their own way
- Children are given no choice
- Children are forced to participate

Songs and Finger Plays

Stickyl, Ickv, Ickv Bubble Gum

(Pretend to get a piece of gum out of your pocket and chew it and chew it. Then blow a bubble, bigger and bigger then POP!)

Sticky, Icky, Icky Bubble Gum

Sticky, Icky, Icky Bubble Gum

Sticky, Icky, Icky Bubble Gum

My hands stick to my _____

Body Part

And I pull them and pull them and pull them off. *(REPEAT)*

I Pull My Ears

I pull my ears,

I push my nose,

I tap my head,

I touch my toes,

I clap, clap, clap

Now I sit down to make my lap

I clap, clap, clap,

I touch my toes,

I tap I head,

! push my nose,

I pull my ears,

And stand up WHOOPS,

My lap disappears

(REPEAT, GETTING FASTER EACH TIME)

Hickety, Pickety, Bumble Bee

Hickety, Pickety, Bumble Bee,

Can you say your name for me?

(Child says his name)

Let's whisper it

(all the children whisper the name)

Let's yell it

(all the children yell the name)

Now turn off your voices and clap.

(REPEAT)

Follow. Foliow

Follow, Follow, Follow, _____
child's name

He is the leader now,

Follow, Follow, Follow, _____
child's name

He is the leader now.

Did You Ever See a Wiggle Worm?

Did you ever see a wiggle worm,
a wiggle worm, a wiggle worm?

Did you ever see a wiggle worm wiggle this way and that?

Wiggle this way and that way
and this way and that way.

Did you ever see a wiggle worm wiggle this way and that?

Gotta Shake. Shake, Shake My Sillies Out

I gotta shake, shake, shake my sillies out,
Shake, shake, shake my sillies out
Shake, shake, shake my sillies out
And wiggle my waggles away.

I gotta jump, jump, jump my jiggles out,
Jump, jump, jump my jiggles out,
Jump, jump, jump my jiggles out,
And wiggle my waggles away.

I gotta clap, clap, clap my crazies out,
Clap, clap, clap my crazies out
Clap, clap, clap my crazies out
And wiggle my waggles away.

I gotta yawn, yawn, yawn my sleepies out
Yawn, yawn, yawn my sieepies out,
Yawn, yawn, yawn my sleepies out
And wiggle my waggles away.

I gotta shake, shake, shake my sillies out,
Shake, shake, shake my sillies out
Shake, shake, shake my sillies out
And wiggle my waggles away.

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Peanut, Peanut butter.... and jelly
Peanut, Peanut butter....and jelly
First you take the peanuts and you crack 'em, crack 'em, crack 'em, crack 'em, crack 'em.
And you smash 'em, smash 'em, smash 'em, smash 'em, smash 'em.
Peanut, Peanut butter.... and jelly
Peanut, Peanut butter.... and jelly
Then you take the berries and you pick 'em, pick 'em, pick 'em, pick 'em, pick 'em.
And you smash 'em, smash 'em, smash 'em, smash 'em, smash 'em.
Peanut, Peanut butter.... and jelly
Peanut, Peanut butter.... and jelly
Now you take the bread and you spread it,
Spread it, spread it, spread it, spread it
And you eat it, eat it, eat it, eat it, eat it.
Peanut, Peanut butter.... and jelly
Peanut, Peanut butter.... and jelly

Five Little Hot Dogs

Five Little Hot Dogs Frying in the Pan, (wiggle 5 fingers)
The grease got hot and one went BAM! (clap)

Four Little Hot Dogs Frying in the Pan, (wiggle 4 fingers)
The grease got hot and one went BAM! (clap)

Three Little Hot Dogs Frying in the Pan, (wiggle 3 fingers)
The grease got hot and one went BAM! (clap)

Two Little Hot Dogs Frying in the Pan, (wiggle 2 fingers)
The grease got hot and one went BAM! (clap)

One Little Hot Dogs Frying in the Pan, (wiggle 1 fingers)
The grease got hot and one went BAM! (clap)

No more hot dogs frying in the pan, (wiggle fist)
The grease got hot and the pan went BAM!!! (clap)

A Little Ball

A little ball, (*make a small ball with hands*)
A bigger ball, (*make a medium ball with hands*)
A great big ball I see. (*make a big ball with hands*)

Now let's count
The balls we made,
One, two, three, (*make a small ball, medium ball, large ball with hands*)

I can make them go so low. (*put your hands down low*)
I can fold them quietly (*fold your hands together*)
And hold them just so. (*put your hands in your Lap*)

Wiggle Wiggle

I wiggle, wiggle, wiggle my fingers,
I wiggle, wiggle, wiggle my toes,
I wiggle, wiggle, wiggle my shoulders,
I wiggle, wiggle, wiggle my nose,
Now no more wiggles are left in me,
So I will sit down - still as can be.

Roll, Roll, Roll Your Hands

(*to the tune of Row, row, row your Boat*)

Roll, roll, roll your hands
Slowly as can be.
Roll them slow as you go.
Roll them one, two, three.
Roll, roll, roll your hands
Fast as fast can be.
Roll them fast, really fast. Roll
them one, two, three

You can repeat this song with any of the following verses:

clap, clap, clap your hands
wave, wave, wave your hands
tap, tap, tap your hands

Way Up High in the Apple Tree

Way up high in the apple tree, (*point up in the air*)
Two little apples smiled at me. (*hold up two fingers, smile*)
I shook that tree as hard as I could, (*pretend to shake a tree trunk*)
And down came the apples, (*motion downward*)
Mmmm, mmmm, were they good, (*rub circles on your stomach*)

There's a Spider on the Floor

There's a spider on the floor, on the floor, (*move your hand like a spider on the floor*)
There's a spider on the floor, on the floor,
Who could ask for any more than a spider on the floor,
There's a spider on the floor, on the floor.

Now the spider's on my leg, on my leg, (*move your hand like a spider on your leg*)
Now the spider's on my leg, on my leg,
Oh he's really big, this spider on my leg,
There's a spider on my leg, on my leg.

Now the spider's on my stomach, on my stomach, (*move your hand like a spider on your stomach*)

Now the spider's on my stomach, on my stomach,
Oh he's just a dumb old lummox, this old spider on my stomach,
There's a spider on my stomach, on my stomach.

Now the spider's on my neck, on my neck, (*move your hand like a spider on your neck*)

Now the spider's on my neck, on my neck,
Oh I'm gonna be a wreck, I've got a spider on my neck,
There's a spider on my neck, on my neck.

Now the spider's on my face, on my face, (*move your hand like a spider on your face*)

Now the spider's on my face, on my face,
Oh what a big disgrace, I've got a spider on my face,
There's a spider on my face, on my face.

Now the spider's on my head, on my head, (*move your hand like a spider on your head*)

Now the spider's on my head, on my head,
Oh I wish that I were dead, I've got a spider on my head,
There's a spider on my head, on my head.

Then he jumps off... (*move your hand from your head to the floor*)

And there's a spider on the floor, on the floor,
(*move your hand like a spider on the floor*)
There's a spider on the floor, on the floor,
Who could ask for any more than a spider on the floor,
There's a spider on the floor, on the floor.

Five Green and Speckled Fjogs

Five green and speckled frogs, (*hold up 5 fingers*)
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs, (*pretend to eat*)
Yum, Yum (*rub your stomach*)
One jumped into the pool, (*hold up one finger*)
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four green speckled frogs (*hold up four fingers*)
Ribbit, ribbit.

Four green and speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs, Yum, Yum
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,

Then there were three green speckled frogs
Ribbit, ribbit.

Three green and speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs, Yum, Yum
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were two green speckled frogs
Ribbit, ribbit.

Two green and speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs. Yum, Yum
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there was one green speckled frog
Ribbit, ribbit.

One green and speckled frog,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs, Yum, Yum
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were no green speckled frogs
RIBBIT, RIBBIT

Five Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree

Five Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree
Teasing Mr. Alligator, You can't catch me
No, You can't catch me.
Along came Mr. Alligator as quiet as can be and
SNAPPED that monkey right out of that tree.

Four Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree
Teasing Mr. Alligator, You can't catch me
No, You can't catch me.
Along came Mr. Alligator as quiet as can be and
SNAPPED that monkey right out of that tree.

Three Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree
Teasing Mr. Alligator, You can't catch me
No, You can't catch me.
Along came Mr. Alligator as quiet as can be and
SNAPPED that monkey right out of that tree.

Two Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree
Teasing Mr. Alligator, You can't catch me
No, You can't catch me.
Along came Mr. Alligator as quiet as can be and
SNAPPED that monkey right out of that tree.

One Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree Teasing
Mr. Alligator, You can't catch me
No, You can't catch me.
Along came Mr. Alligator as quiet as can be and
SNAPPED that monkey right out of that tree.

Traditional Songs and Finger Plays

The Wheels on the Bus
I'm A Little Teapot
The Itsy, Bitsy Spider
Ten Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
The ABC Song
If You're Happy and You Know It
The Itsy Bitsy Spider
Mary Had a Little Lamb
Old Mac Donald Had a Farm
The Hokey, Pokey
Where is Thumbkin?
Hey Diddle, Diddle
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
Do you Know the Muffin Man?

Dances and Movement Activities

The Freeze

Explain to the children that today they are going to play a freeze game. They can dance anyway while the music is playing but when the music stops they must freeze. Put on fast music and have children dance. Turn the music off and on several times.

Jack be Nimble

Have all of the children form a circle. Place a small block on the floor in the middle of the children. Sing Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jumped over the candlestick, (replace Jack with each of the children's names so that they each have a turn to jump over the block.

Move Like Animals

This can be done with or without props and with or without music. The children can pretend to be all sorts of animals in this activity. Be sure to remind children of some rules before you set them loose (for example, there are no biting animals at our zoo today).

Popcorn

Pop popcorn with an air popper and then later on have the children imitate the popcorn. Talk about how the popcorn moves and have all of the children pop like the popcorn.

You may wish to play music while you do this or you can sing the following song:

I'm a Little Popcorn in a pot
Heat me up and watch me pop.
When I get all fat and white, then I'm done.
Popping corn is lots of fun. POP!
(to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

Dance with props

Streamers

Make homemade streamers out of popsicle sticks and crepe paper or flowing ribbon

Sticks

For inexpensive rhythm sticks have children use chopsticks or well sanded dowels

Maracas

Make homemade maracas by filling empty, 20 ounce, plastic bottles with beads, beans, or rice. Make sure the lids are glued or taped on before the children begin shaking the maracas.

Scarves

Ask parents to donate old scarves or purchase them at Goodwill.
Long ribbons can also be used.

Bell Mittens

Jingle bells and mittens can be purchased on clearance after the winter holidays. Sew a couple of bells on the tip of several mittens and have the children put two mittens on. They can make music by shaking their hands, clapping, or jumping.

Bell Bracelets

String jingle bells on yarn or string, soft string and tie them to make bracelets. The children can wear these bells on their wrists, their ankles, or just hold them to make music.

"The Silly Dance Contest" Jim Gill

This song by Jim Gill is great for preschoolers, it encourages them to move quickly and slowly and to move in specific ways such as jumping.

"Stick to the Glue" Jim Gill

This song follows the tune of Skip to the Lou. This is a fun song in which children pretend that their hands, feet, and other body parts get stuck together with glue. Children will be begging to do this song over and over again.

"Going on a Bear Hunt" Greg and Steve

Going on a bear hunt is a fun way for children to talk about over, under, around, and different ways to move their bodies. The children will be running away from the bear by the end of this song.

A Goldfish in a Bowl

If you have a class pet have the children imagine what it would be like to be that kind of animal. They may be pretending to be a goldfish in a bowl or a hamster on a wheel or whatever other type of class pet you have.

Newspaper Fun

Give each child a piece of newspaper and have the children lie down and pretend that the newspaper is their blanket. As they 'wake up' they can use the newspaper to be something else. See how many ways the children can think of to use a newspaper. (They may use it as wings, snowballs, a paper airplane, a hat, leaves, a book, etc).

Be a Snowflake

After children have experienced snowflakes falling, play soft classical music and have them spin and twirl and glide around like snowflakes. They will come up with many ways to move.

Be a Leaf

After children have experienced leaves falling, play soft classical music and have them spin and twirl and glide around like leaves. They will come up with many ways to move.

Be a Bubble

After blowing bubbles, have the children be bubbles. Have the children move as you narrate the following story:

"One windy day, I decided to blow some bubbles. So I went outside and opened my bottle of bubbles. Then I pulled out the stick and began to blow. The bubble got bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger and then POP! My bubble popped and fell to the floor. So I blew another bubble. I blew and blew and this bubble went floating into the air. It spun around and around. Then it flew up high. Then it flew down low. Then it started flying backwards. And finally it fell to the floor and went POP! (BE SURE TO PAUSE MANY TIMES SO THE CHILDREN CAN ACT OUT ALL OF THESE SITUATIONS)

Be a Stickman, a Robot A Rock and Roll Musician

Put on some fast music and have the children move like a stick man or a robot or a rock and roll musician or any other way that you can think of.

Be a Ballerina

Put on slow music and have the children dance with long graceful movements.

Indoor Skating

Have the children take off their shoes and in their socks they can slide around the floor pretending to skate to some slow music. Be sure to discuss safety rules before the children do this (for example you may want to ask them what would happen if everyone was skating in different directions).

Make a Congo Line

Have the children join shoulders and Congo around the room.

The Limbo

Have the children form a line and play some fast music. One person can hold a stick horizontally as the children limbo under it. The stick may be lowered throughout the dance.

One Odd Walk

Ask the children to imagine what it would be like to walk :

..... in deep, deep sand
... on a floor covered in syrup ...
.through a field of jello ...
.through a prickly bush
....on peanut butter
on bouncy rubber balls
..... through tall, tall grass that's taller than you
... .across hot cement

After the children have thought about walking in all of these odd situations tell them that

We are going to sing a song about it.

(to the tune of Here we go Round the Mulberry Bush)

Here we go through the deep, deep sand
The deep, deep sand
The deep deep sand
Here we go through the deep, deep sand
On our odd walk

(Continue with the other verses)

Make a Train

Have the children make a line and place their hands on the waist of the person in front of them. Play train music (Rock a Motion ChooChoo is one train song). Have the front of the train slowly pull the children around the classroom

Airplane Acrobatics

Have the children move as you tell the following story. Be sure to pause many times so the children have time to act out your words.

Pretend you're an airplane. You start out on the ground.
Then you start going higher and higher and higher. Now you're flying.
You're going way up to the clouds.
Now you're diving back down.
You're zooming to the left.
Now you're circling around.
You're coming in for a landing.
You're going down, down, down.
And zoom.... You're back on the ground.

Games

Bug in a Rug

Lay a large blanket on the floor and have the children sit in a circle around the blanket. One child closes his/her eyes and a chosen child hides under the blanket. The class chants:

"Bug in the rug, Bug in the rug, Tell me who is that bug in the rug?" The child can open his/her eyes and try to guess who is under the rug.

Hula Hoop Scramble

Lay several hula hoops on the floor and have each child stand inside of a hoop. Play music and the children must move around the room (outside of the hoops). When the music stops they must run and get into a hoop. The teacher will then remove a hoop and begin the music. The children will dance around and when the music stops again they must get in a hoop. This will repeat until the game is down to one hoop. There is no loser in this game. When hoops are removed it just means that more children will have to crowd into the hoops.

No one is out.

Pass the Hula Hoop

Have the children join hands and form a circle. Place one hula hoop on a child's arm. As the music plays the children have to pass the hula hoop around the circle without letting go of each other's hands. They must scoot their body head to toe through the hoop. The children race the music to get the hoop around the circle. This game continues until everyone has gotten through the hoop.

Pass the Bean Bag

Create a cassette tape that is a combination of bits of fast and slow music. Have the children sit in a circle and pass the bean bag around. They can pass it slowly on the slow music and faster on the fast music. After the game talk about fast and slow.

Color Race

The teacher will hold a pile of color cards behind her back and tell the children ready, set go. When she says go the teacher will hold up one color card and the children will race to touch one thing that color. This can repeat until the children have raced to find all of the basic colors.

Mystery Eggs

After Easter, plastic eggs can be purchased very inexpensively. Fill and Hide plastic Easter eggs around the room. Have the children collect these eggs and talk with them about how they feel (heavy or light), how they sound, how they smell, etc. Listen to the children's observations and guesses about what is inside.

What's that Sound

Put a small divider up and make a noise behind the divider. Have the children guess what made that sound. After the children have guessed hold up the object. The children can take turns coming behind the divider and making the sounds.

What's that Sound on Cassette

Record sounds and take photos of things that are familiar to your children. Sounds of cars, local animals, etc. Play the cassette tape and have the children shout out what they think it is. After they have guessed, show them a photo of what was making that sound.

What is Missing.

Place a few items in the children's view. Then have them close their eyes and the teacher takes one thing away. When the children open their eyes they have to guess what is missing. The children can take turns hiding the items, too.

Animal Charades

The children can guess what animal their friends are pretending to be.

Helper Hats Charades

The children can put on a community helper hat and pretend to be that person while their friends guess who they are. Children enjoy giving each other clues in this game.

Hot Potato

Pass around an object to be the hot potato, but there is no loser in this game. When the music ends, whoever is holding the hot potato gets to yell "Hot Potato" and continue in the game. The game ends when time is up or when the children's interest is gone.

The Balloon Bounce

Hang balloons on strings from the ceiling so that each child has at least one. Play music and have the children dance with their balloon. They may want to hit it or bump it with their hands or their head. Let them figure out many different ways that they can dance with their balloon.

Keep it Up

Toss some balloons to the children as some music is playing and have them hit the balloons back and forth to each other but don't let them hit the ground. They have to keep the balloon up in the air for a whole song.

Traditional Games

Simon Says (Play Simon Says without tricking the children.
(No one loses in this game.)

Doggie. Doggie. Where's Your Bone Who

Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?

Musical Chairs (Take out chairs not children)

Duck. Duck. Goose (Don't make anyone sit in the middle)

Activities

Obstacle Course

Set up an obstacle course inside or outside

Imagination Boxes

Give the children a variety of empty boxes and let their imaginations run wild.

Design Stickers

Give the children blank labels and let them design their own stickers

Bubbles

Set out a variety of things that children can dip into bubble solution and try to blow bubbles. Talk with the children about what items make good bubbles and what items don't work. Ask the children why.

Nature Walk/ Color Walk/ Shape Walk

Go for a walk to collect nature items or to just look at nature. Or go for a walk and talk about all of the different colors, letter, or shapes that they see.