

Objective: to develop aboriginal cultural awareness through artistic and musical experience.

Equipment

2 sticks* per child (approx. 15cm long and 2cm diameter)
 Paint (children could choose colours or use "earth" colours)
 Fine brushes and/or cotton buds.

* more meaningful if sticks are collected from nature, "debarked" and cut to size with the children, however wooden dowel or old wooden broom handles cut to size are also an option. Recycled materials are more cost effective.

Instructions

Show children pictures of aboriginal clap sticks.

Find sticks of the correct size and shape for clap sticks.

De-bark and let children paint their own designs and patterns on the clap sticks. Let sticks dry.

Children can use clap sticks in a variety of areas: indoors or outdoors, in dress up area, music time.

Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes*

Outcome 1: Children

- interact with care, empathy and respect through discussion of aspects of traditional aboriginal culture.

Outcome 2: Children

- respond to diversity with respect through discussions about traditional aboriginal culture.
- become socially responsible through growing understanding of diversity.

Outcome 3: Children

- take responsibility for physical wellbeing through dance.

Outcome 4: Children develop

- curiosity, enthusiasm and creativity through understanding other cultures, musical and artistic expression and experience.
- range of skills and processes such as inquiry researching and investigating nature and different cultures.

Outcome 5: Children

- interact verbally and non-verbally with others.
- express ideas and make meaning through artistic expression, music and dance.
- use technology to access information researching aboriginal culture and traditions.

Key Learning Area Links

Pre-Numeracy (Mathematics)

Patterning and sequencing (matching markings on each clap sticks, repetition of rhythm/beat cards)

Counting a 4 beat rhythm.

Measurement: Size and shape (comparing sticks).

Literacy/Vocabulary (English)

red, brown, yellow, white, aboriginal, Indigenous Australians, corroboree, clap, sticks, beat, rhythm, bark, traditions.

Languages other than English (LOTE)

Find out aboriginal name for clap sticks, is it different in different areas and dialects?

Health and Physical Education

Fine Motor Skills: fine brush painting on sticks.

Gross Motor: dance to traditional and contemporary aboriginal music.

Studies of Society and Environment

Cultural Diversity—exploring and discussing elements of traditional and modern aboriginal culture.

The Arts

Artistic expression through decorating clap sticks

Music experience through use of sticks for musical expression and dance.

Colour - colours of nature, traditionally use colours.
 Medium—the type of paint used, acrylic, water based, ground rocks to make pigment or traditional method.

Science

Comparison of different sticks against required criteria. (15 cm x 2cm approx.)

Extension Ideas

Discuss aboriginal clap sticks, use the internet to find pictures and listen to how they are used in aboriginal music/dance. Children can play their clap sticks with the music. Look at pictures/books about other aboriginal musical instruments.

Use the rhythm cards black line masters with the clap sticks. (available on website)

See if the children can attend a aboriginal corroboree, or ceremonial dance.

Global Kids Oz Linked Resources

South American/Aboriginal Rain Sticks

Aboriginal Clap Sticks

Aboriginal Play Mats