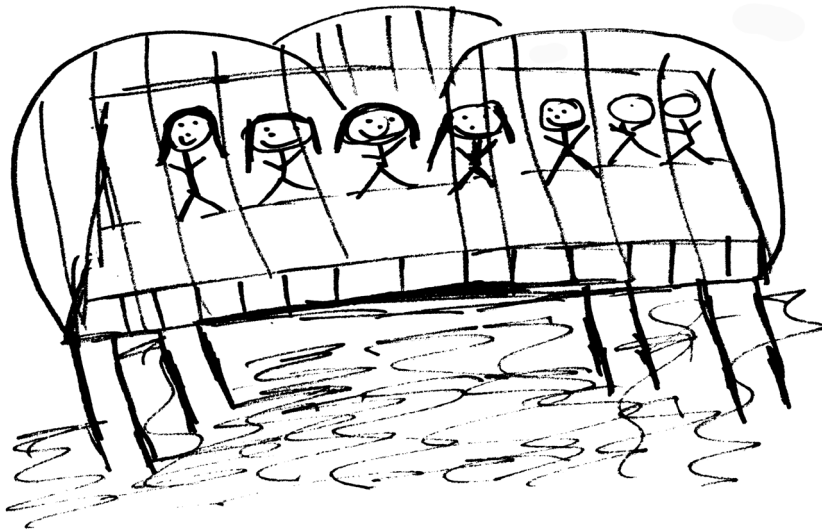


BRIDGE OF AVIGNON

France

This is a traditional French tune & a popular children's folk dance. We decided to adapt it to preschool use & have some fun isolating body parts. It is a cumulative dance so the first part of the music gets longer so the challenge is to add more movements each time. There is also the opportunity for children to experiment with many different ways of using each body part.



THE MUSIC

The music has 2 parts: 16 counts in Part A while Part B is cumulative with an extra 4 beats added in each verse. The introduction has 4 beats.

ACTIVITY 1

Part A: Keep the beat with body percussion e.g. clap, patsch. Later use gross motor movements such as walk, skip, giant steps etc moving anywhere in the room.

Part B: Teacher invents a movement for each body part & the children copy.

ACTIVITY 2

Part A: Two children create a bridge by touching finger tips with arms stretched up high. The other children can skip under the bridge.

Part B: Ask the children for suggestions for ways to move their heads, hands, feet & bodies. Encourage them to invent unusual movements.

Practice some of them & then use them in the dance.

ACTIVITY 3

Part A: Join hands in a circle & skip in the circle for 16 beats.

For older children try changing direction (8 skips right, 8 skips left)

Part B: Choose one of the children to be the leader. Everyone moves the way the leader decides to move. For children who know the dance well there could be 4 leaders each time who know which body part they will be leading.