

Tarantella

This activity has worked well with young children through to adults of all ages. It has been seen by most as a non-threatening beginning to dance and there are some significant learning outcomes possible from this activity. The selection of music is critical and this wonderful track from Christoph Maubach (Step Back Sally) has particularly clear sections and a very defined rhythmic pattern. I would like to point out that this version of Tarantella has little to resemble the standard dance steps but in no way is intended to offend. It has been used with the primary aim of learning musical concepts through the medium of dance.

Activity:

- Students stand in groups of 4 in a diamond shape opposite a partner. Determine who is pair 1 and pair 2.
- Through step by step instruction and modelling, participants learn the A section of the dance. The body is quite rigid and upright.
- The B section is contrasted by the 'fluid' look of the tarantula spiders meeting, first pair 1 followed by pair 2.
- After a repeat of the A section, the pairs do-si-do (maintaining the fluid nature of the B section).
- The music has two further B sections and students create their own movements.