

Course: Create an Alphabet Dance

Lesson One: Transitions in the Alphabet Dance

Learning Area: The Arts

Strands: Dance

Time: 45 Minutes

Year Level: 3-4

Content Descriptor:

- Improvise and structure movement ideas for dance sequences using the elements of dance and choreographic devices (ACADAM005).
- Practise technical skills safely in fundamental movements (ACADAM006).

Learning Focus:

- Students create transitions between the letter moves they developed in the Learn the Alphabet Dance course.

Time:	Teaching and Learning Strategies:	Preparation and Resources:
10 minutes	Reviewing the Alphabet Dance Following from the previous course, students should now know at least two Alphabet Dance phrases. Discuss: are there any 'awkward corners' in the Alphabet Dance so far? Sometimes, certain letters and their accompanying movements are harder to remember than others, and the group gets stuck at that point each time. This can happen when you are transitioning from one batch of four letters to another. Practise those transition points: if you learned I, J, K, L and M, N, O, P in separate batches of four, also practise K, L, M, N in order to get used to thinking ahead into the next batch.	Relevant ARTS:LIVE resources • Transitions in the Alphabet Dance activity sheet. Additional resources required • a clear space with enough room for each student to move freely with their arms stretched out to the side • comfortable clothing • a music player • a device for recording video/stills.
35 minutes	Creating a dance Now choose a broad theme to work from. This may be related to a classroom inquiry topic, or theme already chosen for integrated studies. It may be related to a book the class is reading, or a creative writing topic. With your theme chosen, brainstorm a list of words related to this theme. Alternatively, you may choose to have one sentence that sums up your theme. • Ask for volunteers to try dancing some of the words. • Try some with the whole class, spelling the word out loud letter by letter, while dancing it.	

- Choose four, five or six words that you feel suit the dance vocabulary best or that feel most appropriate to your overall theme.
- Divide the class into small groups, four to five people per group is a good size. If you worked in small groups to choreograph the alphabet (and so don't know every movement as a whole class) you will need to reset the groups now so that each new group has a representative from each of the earlier groups.
- Then, each group chooses one of the chosen words from the brainstorm shortlist to prepare and dance together.

Note: It may take your students more than one 45 minute session to complete the content of this lesson. Allow adequate follow up time to ensure the majority of students have completed the lesson focus before moving on.