

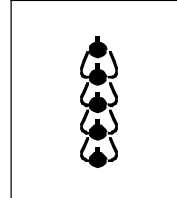
CARNAVALITO (Bolivia)

This dance can be used to call the children together for dancing. The single-file line formation makes it easy for children to join on as they leave what they are doing. In a kindergarten, why not make a practice of going round the rooms and yard with an instrument, like the Pied Piper, collecting the children who would like to come and dance?

This carries on a tradition of some old cultures: a musician is hired, and leads a chain of dancers through the streets collecting people to come into the town square and dance.

THE DANCE

Stand in lines one behind the other (up to about ten children). For Part A hold on to the shoulders or waist of the person in front.



Listen as the Introduction sets up the rhythm. Try stepping (stamping?) the rhythm.

Begin dancing with the actual tune.

A: Moving in single file after the leader, walk in the rhythm of the music (slow, slow, quick, quick, slow), snaking around as the leader wishes. Stamping the steps is fun, and helps everyone catch the rhythm.

The adults can enjoy swaying their bodies, Latin-American style.

B: Skip, following the leader.

Hands are now free. Dancers may sway their arms from side to side above the head (see Note 2 below), clap, click their fingers, or play maraccas, etc..

NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

1. If each dancer holds onto the person in front for the slow part, it keeps the line together well, and also pulls it together again efficiently when the slow part returns.
2. Live music makes a wonderful difference. Clackers, drums, tambourines and maraccas will add some Latin-American Carnival atmosphere.
3. This dance has originated in the Carnival traditions of South America. Why not research costume (google Bolivia)? The children could make something simple, or tie some bright ribbons round each other's wrists to wave in the air on Part B.
4. Notice the beautifully clear, sustained introduction of the Tune A rhythm at the beginning – valuable for music education as well as body education. That is the most famous rhythm in European-derived dancing: slow, slow, quick, quick, slow!!

HISTORY: Processionals, one of the oldest ritual dance-forms, have always been common in religious festivals, for purposes solemn or merry. This modern one uses two tunes popular throughout Latin America that have also had other dance uses. This dance can be seen on YouTube done “secondhand” by folkdancers. But the Carnavalito shown by ethnic dancers is different, and has its own famous song.