

Giraffes Can't Dance Extension Activities for the Classroom

Creating a positive environment:

Kindness Jar

Create an "ENCOURAGE OTHERS" jar in your classroom. When you hear students encouraging others, add an entry to the jar with the student's name and what they said. Have a celebration when the jar is full and read out all the encouraging words heard in your classroom!

<https://toddlerapproved.com/our-kindness-jar-via-teach-preschool/>

Art Activities:

Paper Roll Giraffes

Use empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls to create some craft giraffes. Use the link below for instructions.

<https://nontoygifts.com/paper-roll-giraffe-craft/>



Math Activities:

Giraffe Spots

Materials Needed:

- giraffe printable (printed onto white cardstock, one per person)
- a bowl of circle shaped cereal
- dice
- pencil

First thing you need to do is print out a copy of a giraffe for each child. Next you need to write individual numbers all over the giraffe's body or simple number sentences if the child is older. After that, grab your dice and you are ready to play!

To play: each child will have a giraffe printable with numbers on it. Each child takes a turn rolling the dice. Kids then get to take a piece of cereal from the bowl and use it to cover up the number that is rolled! Kids play again and again (taking turns) until the first player fills up their board completely!

<https://www.toddlerapproved.com/2014/07/giraffe-spots-number-game.html>



Music and Movement Activities:

Musical giraffes

Print, laminate, and secure the pictures of giraffes on the floor within your classroom. To the sound of music, children move around the room. When the music stops, they must quickly find a giraffe to stand on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7BNJ7JbNxc>

Dance Painting

Painting is a form of creative expression, as is dance. Combine them, and you have a dance activity that is fun and interesting. You need some kid-friendly paints, a few bowls to make the colors, and a non-skid, washable plain mat for the floor.

How to play:

- Have a child stand on the mat.
- Let him/her dip their feet into a color bowl of choice and take a position.
- Start playing music and ask the child to tap and move their feet.
- One by one, each kid dances on the mat with their feet smeared in the color of their choice.
- When the children are done dancing, you will have a colorful abstract painting on the mat.



https://www.momjunction.com/articles/dance-games-and-activities-for-kids_00399936/

“Giraffes Can’t Dance” put to music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62O9EjrEVUc>

Follow the giraffe

<https://www.educatall.com/page/1456/Giraffes.html>

Children hold hands. They must follow the rhythm and reproduce the actions of the first giraffe (child) in line. For example, they must walk slowly or quickly, heavily or lightly, pretend to stomp around in the mud, etc.

If you and your students enjoyed reading *Giraffes Can't Dance*, check out these books:

- *Giraffe Problems* by Jory John
- *National Geographic Readers: Giraffes* by Laura Marsh
- *A Giraffe and a Half* by Shel Silverstein