

“How Shall We Go?”

Ages 3 and Up

- ✓ Imagination
- ✓ Gross Motor Skills
- ✓ Cooperation

Aim:

- To strengthen imagination by acting out different ways to move as a group across the room.
- To strengthen gross motor skills while moving in various ways across the room.
- To demonstrate cooperation by working together with other children to move as a whole group in an imaginary action.

Benefits to Child:

Children love to imagine themselves as animals or different kinds of people, and this activity encourages them to stretch their minds to imagine how they should move to act out a particular animal, object, or group. Completing the motions together as a whole group will encourage the necessary cooperation with one another to achieve a movement. Certainly, the need for gross motor skills is essential for performing various movements with the group.

Music:

- No music is needed, but background music can add to the fun.

Materials:

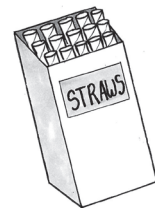
- It is helpful to have pictures of the things, animals, and people the children will act out in this activity. Pictures will give the children an idea of what they will have to look like as they move.

Activity Description:

Set the room up with lots of open space to allow for a whole group of children to move in unison from one corner of the room to another.

Tell the children they're going to need their “thinking caps” on today to imagine different ways to move across the room. Tell them you're going to suggest various animals, objects, or people and, as a whole group, they are going to move like that object, animal, or people from one corner of the room to the other.

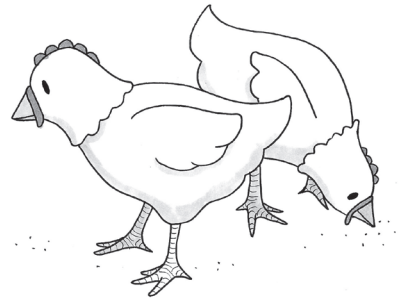
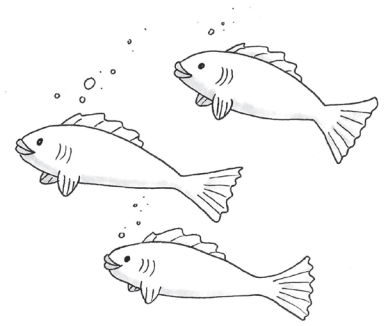
1. Start by asking the children to think about what a box of straws looks like. You might want to have an example with you to show them. Ask the children to pretend that each of them is one of the straws in the box, and they will need to move, all at the same time across the room as a “box of straws.” ASK – “How shall we move so that we stay together like a box of straws?”



Encourage the children to think about standing tall and straight, keeping very close together without stepping on each other's toes, and moving very slowly together to the opposite corner of the room. Expect a lot of laughter and some falling out of line!

2. Next, try moving in the manners suggested below, guiding the children if they are having difficulty thinking about how they should move together.

- a. A bunch of grapes – scrunched up together in a not-so-orderly looking bunch and moving in a jiggly kind of way.
- b. A school of fish in a lake – slightly spread apart and following the leader(s) in the group, moving in waves across the room and making fish faces.
- c. A group of bunnies scampering across the yard – crouch down on hands and feet, and move by reaching with hands and bringing feet up to meet them.
- d. A flock of geese migrating – moving in a V shape with one leader while flapping wings and making goose calls.
- e. Businessmen and women crossing a busy city street – pretending to carry briefcases or papers and talking to one another while watching for traffic.
- f. A group of chickens on a farm – Crouched down in a squat, while pretending to peck at the ground for food and squawking as they move around haphazardly.
- g. A marching band in a parade – standing tall while playing an instrument (horn, tuba, clarinet, drums, etc.) and marching all together in lines.



■■■■ Variation(s):

Suggest to the children that now they have to move without walking, and encourage them to generate other ways to move, (i.e., hopping, skipping, tip-toeing, etc.)

Allow children to suggest new ways to move.