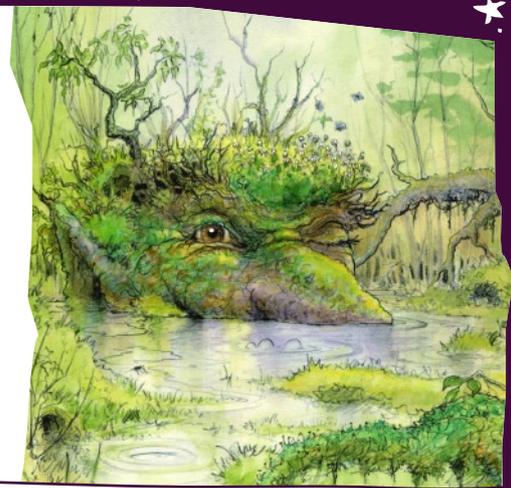


BeWILDerwood

Explore
Discover
Understand



Dance of the Dragonflies - Physical activity creating dance sequences.

Dance like a Twiggles! Hop, skip and twirl around the woodland glade, just like the Twiggles do at their famous BeWILDerwood parties. Children can make up their own "Dance of the Dragonflies" to perform to their friends right in the heart of BeWILDerwood. Make a video of the dances and use it in support of the children's work back at school.

Thoughts: This activity could be shortened to just thinking about dance movements, and perhaps photographing ideas on the day of the visit. These thoughts and photographs could then be used to create a dance sequence when there is more time to do so, back at school.

Worksheet required? No.

Children's learning objectives

- To learn how to use movement to explore and communicate shapes, feelings and thoughts. As the children work, they will develop an awareness of the natural environment
- To copy and explore basic body actions demonstrated by you and fellow pupils
- To practise the movements and perform them in a controlled way
- To demonstrate movements and relate these to characters and objects
- To compose a sequence of movements into a simple dance with a clear beginning, middle and end
- To review other children's work and say what they think and feel about it.

What you will need

- A camera or video recorder may come in handy. You can then use these to help review the activity back at school.

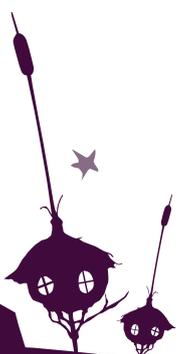
Groupings

This activity can be completed in small groups (with accompanying adults for help).



Activity

- Stand in a circle on the lawn between the Cosy Cabin and Storytelling stage area
- On a warm summer's day in BeWILDerwood, the dragonflies can often be found dipping, diving and twirling above the lawn in front of the Cosy Cabin. They catch thermals and hang in mid-air before soaring up to the sky, spinning around and around and around.
- Discuss the sorts of movements dragonflies would make on a day like this. Consider other natural objects and characters that may be found in BeWILDerwood and the movements they would make, e.g. Twiggles leaping through the trees, leaves blowing in the wind, grass swaying, blossom floating through the air.
- You can demonstrate a movement (for example, a character or natural object). The children then guess the character or object being demonstrated. Once guessed correctly you then pass 'the movement' on to the next person in the circle. Now that person has the movement. It has turned into something else. What is it? Once guessed, pass on to the next person in the circle. Go around the circle demonstrating movements children could use in their dance. The movement activity ends when everyone in the circle has had a go. Talk about the types of movements demonstrated around the circle. How many different movements have been created? Was the same thing shown in different ways?
- Children then split off into small groups to compose their own short dance of the dragonflies. Discuss the movements which were demonstrated in the circle. Can they be used in their composition?
- Encourage children to think of movements to reflect other creatures or characters. How would they move? Consider flow and form. How do they get from shape to shape? Are they still at times or constantly moving?
- Once composed, bring the groups back together. Each group is to perform their dance to the whole group. Maybe they tell you about their dance before they perform it, giving an insight into their performance.



Review the activity

- After all the dances have been performed, discuss how the dances were different and how they were similar
- Discuss the different characters and objects which were performed. How many different things were represented in the dances?

Further activities for back in the classroom

- If you recorded them, watch the videos you made to remind the children of all the dances performed. In small groups, ask the children to pick their favourite parts of any dance. Join together with other groups and make a longer dance altogether. Maybe pick some music to use alongside the dances. Ask the children to perform together as a group to the rest of the class
- Ask the children to write a short piece describing their dance to other people. Make a visual display featuring any photographs taken on the day, alongside the description of each dance.

Points to consider

- **Physical activity** – warm up and cool down properly before and after exercise (which could be a fun game in itself!)
- **Care for the natural environment** – Ensure growing plants or trees are not damaged whilst dancing (they have feelings too!).

The Twigggle Team would love to hear about the children's different dances, so feel free to send in any photos or videos you've made. We may even publish some of your ideas on our website!

