“Draw Me a Bucket of Water”

Grades: 3 – 4

Start of by teaching the song to the students. The song can be found in the Third Grade Edition of the Making Music series [the red book], on page 124. I don’t worry about the kids knowing the song perfectly before we start playing the game. I find that the more we play, the more they become familiar with the song.

To teach the song, I always start off by having four students model the game. I choose the students to make sure that it goes smoothly. I always help them to get into the starting positions. We start in a small circle. I ask them to hold hands with the person across from them. One set of arms should be on top. The other set of arms is on top.

After getting them all placed in the correct starting position, I sing the song phrase by phrase, and instruct the kids on how and when their arms should move. We go step-by-step through the game. I stress that they go ‘under’ arms on the word ‘under’.

At the beginning of the song, there are ‘none in the bunch’. I point out that no one has arms around them. Then there is ‘one in the bunch and three out the bunch’. I point out to the class that there is now one person inside everyone’s arms and three people outside of the arms. Each time we add someone to the bunch, I point it out to the kids so that they can visually see what is happening.

Once all of the students are in the bunch, I explain to them that they need to get the frog out of the bucket. I ask them what they think is the best way to do this. Usually they agree that the best way would be to jump around to get it out, if they don’t come up with it on their own, I tell them. They jump around, but they must keep their bucket together. They can’t break apart or fall to the floor.

After I have one group model the game, the rest of the class gets into groups of four [it helps if they are similar in height] and the game begins!

My kids love this game, and always ask to play.