

## Curriculum Corner

# Choreo for The Hockey Song by Stompin' Tom

Jenny Trites

I was excited to be asked to lead a movement session at the Nova Scotia Orff Chapter Children's Day. Children's Day in Nova Scotia brings together elementary students from across our province. On this particular Saturday morning, students attend workshops in singing, movement, recorder, and pitched percussion; that afternoon they perform for their families.

The committee asked me to have the movement fit this year's *Canada 150* theme and suggested that I do something around the theme of *hockey*.

Along with the thematic suggestion from the committee, I had some criteria of my own:

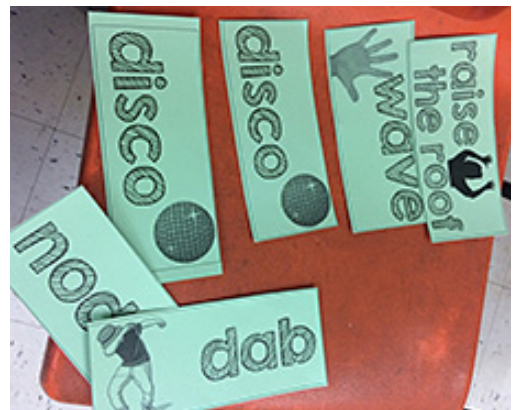
1. The lesson would require **creativity** from the participants—this is what Orff is all about, after all!
2. The lesson would be **structured** enough that it could be created and rehearsed in a single session
3. The lesson would clearly **link movement to musical form**
4. The lesson would set up safe **opportunities for risk-taking and teamwork**. Especially important when students have a short time to grow familiar with new instructors and classmates
5. The lesson would be **easy to duplicate with any music class**, not only the super motivated students who would volunteer to come to extra music classes on a Saturday morning.

I decided to build a movement activity to go along with Stompin' Tom Connors' classic, *The Hockey Song*. From the staff at [stompintom.com](http://stompintom.com) Stompin' Tom Connors – *The Hockey Song* – YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxJvrD80nJ4>

Teaching in front of other teachers kicks my stress levels into high gear, but I ended up having a blast. The only downside of teaching at Children's Day is that you don't get to observe the other teachers!

## Teaching Process

- Set the scene: students are gathered at a friend's house to watch a hockey game. Their team is in the playoffs. Whenever their team scores, everybody leaps up off the couch to celebrate with a victory dance.
- Listen to the hockey song and ask students to figure out when the goals happen (always immediately before the chorus)
- Work together to create a "victory dance" to go with the chorus. I love to use my **Modern Movement Cards for Big Kids** from *Organized Chaos* on Teachers Pay Teachers, and I find many of my students appreciate having a bank of ideas to draw from. I always keep some blank index cards on hand in case students want a bit more freedom.



At Children's Day, we created this dance as a full group activity since we were limited to a single session. In my own classroom, students did this over multiple classes, first as a whole group, then in small groups before settling on a final product. They decided that the two groups should have two different dances.

During the verses, we used some simple props (blankets and popcorn containers) and mimed some groups of friends arriving at the house, settling in, and watching the game together. The kids came up with some pretty funny scenarios (spilled popcorn, smelly farts, falling asleep on the person beside them, jostling for more room on the couch, hogging the popcorn or blankets)

### The Hockey Song Choreo Guide

*Chorus Choreo:* Use 4-8 movement cards (or index cards) to create a victory dance.

*Prop Suggestions:* Remote control, blankets, pillows, snacks, stuffed animals, slippers, team jerseys and hats.



### Introduction

One student per group enters and mimes turning on a TV

### Verse One

Students gradually settle in two separate clusters as if they are on/around a couch watching a hockey game with their friends and family.

End of verse: GROUP A celebrates a goal, while GROUP B is disappointed

### Chorus 1

Victory Dance (GROUP A Only)

### Verse Two

Student created comedic moments (somebody falls off the couch, or misses a goal because they fell asleep or had to pee).

End of verse: GROUP B celebrates a goal while GROUP A is disappointed

### Chorus 2

Victory Dance (GROUP B Only)

### Verse Three

Student created dramatic moments (difficulties with sharing space, the blankets, or snacks) Everybody is watching intently and with growing tension

End of verse: GROUP B celebrates a goal while GROUP A is disappointed

### Chorus 3 (3 times)

1<sup>st</sup> time: Victory Dance (GROUP B Only)

2<sup>nd</sup> time: Victory Dance (Both Groups)

3<sup>rd</sup> time: Lead the audience in a *wave*

*Jenny Trites is an Orff Music Specialist teaching music at three different schools in the Halifax Regional School Board and is treasurer of the NS Orff Chapter. Her blog “Melodious Intent - Musings on Elementary Classroom Music” can be found at [melodiousintent.wordpress.com](http://melodiousintent.wordpress.com)*