

Pass the Clap

Pass the clap is a great whole-class game that teaches children so many important skills they will need when playing music.

How it's played:

There are various different levels to this game.

Level 1 – Vocal

In my experience, this game works best if started with using a vocal sound, as opposed to a physical sound like a clap. Sat in a circle, the children speak the same word into each other's ear and the word gets passed around the circle. "Hello" is a great word to start with, as most children know to look at someone when greeting them. Once the children have got used to passing a word around the circle, you can begin to work with a clap.

Level 2 – Clap

A clap can be passed around the circle in the same way the word was passed around the circle. Each child turns to the next child to show the "passing on" of the clap.

Level 3 – Clap to a pulse

The best way to do this is by playing one of the pulse beats you will find in the resources area of mrtanthemusicman.com. The children co-ordinate their claps with each beat of the pulse, clapping in turn on the pulse. This can be quite a big step from level 2, so feel free to help the children but pointing when it their turn, or anything else you think will work.

Level 4 – Changing direction

This is quite an advanced version of the game. I have played this version with as young as year 3 before, however they may find it extremely difficult. A double clap made by anyone (or a ti-ti clap) can be used at any point and this changes the direction in which the clap is travelling.