



MathStart®

Bug Dance

Directions

Level 1 Ages 3+

Activity Ideas

Sheet music is provided for the musically inspired. In addition to learning these basic directions, children gain a foundation in important mapping skills.

The bugs in Coach Caterpillar's gym class are learning a dance, but Centipede keeps tripping over his own feet! "Two steps to the left, two steps to the right. One hop forward, one hop backward. Turn right! Wiggle left. Wiggle right. Do the Bug Dance every night! Illustrated by Christopher Santoro.

DC Standard 4.4, Geometry and Spatial Sense: Children will begin to demonstrate an understanding of shape, size, position, direction, and movement, and they will describe and classify real objects by shape. **(4.4.5)** Describe, name and interpret position in space; understand and use positional words.

- Read the story together and discuss which direction the bugs are moving
- Have your child or class wiggle left hands, then right hands, and then left and right feet. Face the same direction as the children and have them identify your left and right hands and feet. To help them remember, you can place a string or a loose rubber band on each child's right hand. Also point out that the thumb and the forefinger of the left hand form the letter "L."
- Plan a walk to the park or store. Draw a simple map of the route you will follow and have your child or class help with the directions. After the directions are written out, follow the directions and take a walk
- **TEACHER IDEA!** "Dancing in All Directions" by Julie Heron, kindergarten teacher
My kindergarten students love the Bug Dance story. I have used it in various ways to teach several different concepts. It not only teaches math but helps build vocabulary, which is important since English Language Learners make up over half my class. After reading the book and acting out the dance steps, my students asked to do the dance over and over again, so I decided to create a Bug Dance Learning Center.
- ★ I made a mat with outlines of feet going in all four directions. The students could then follow the dance steps in the book.

- ★ I created word cards that said: "Hop," "Turn," "Left," "Right," "Forward," "Backward" and "Two Steps." I put several of each into the stack. The instructions for the kids were first to pick 6 cards, then read the cards and put them in some order to create their own dances, and finally, to enjoy the dance!
- ★ One day a little boy asked if we could add other dance moves to the story. So I brainstormed with the class for movement words. The activity is the same as above, but this time included more words that the students themselves had generated: "Shake," "Clap," "Jump," "Over," "Under," "Slide," "Stomp," "Three Steps," "Four Steps," and "Turn Around."

These activities were a big hit. We do them about once a month and they get the same reaction every time. I am happy to get those little bodies moving in a constructive way. I hope your class has as much fun as mine has -- year after year!

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