

GRAND MARCH

Leading children (or adults) in a "Grand March" can be a good "warming up" for a dance session, especially when they are not yet quite sure whether they really want to and will be able to dance.

You just invite them to follow the cpl in front of them and they will find themselves moving to the music in some unexpected patterns. By means of your choice out of the possible figures, you can make it more or less long or complicated.

When a group of children has been doing several figures, they will like it very much to be left alone in doing them, the first cpl leading and choosing the order.

Very often they will be able to find out new possibilities themselves, so don't tell them all you know at once!

The following description will give you a number of figures in a rather logical order, but these are mostly too much for one time, so make your choice, and of course the order can be changed. Try to avoid to get the ptrs change places (so keep the girls on the R hand of the boys) and to get a circle facing out.

FIGURES

1. Serpentine. The leading cpl walks a serpentine through the hall, all cpls following exactly their trail.



2. Standing arches. The leading cpl walks along LOD and comes to a standstill at the beginning of one of the long sides, making an arch (with one hand). The next cpl ducks under their arch and stands beside them, making an arch too, and so on until one long archway is made, the 1st cpl standing at the rear end.



3. Alley. The leading cpl starts clapping, when all do so, an alley is formed. The 1st cpl dances through this alley with sliding steps, in butterfly pos. Coming to the end, they step apart and stand clapping. The other cpls follow them, a next cpl starting every four beats. When the leading cpl has to start again, they just walk through the alley, followed by the others, so re-establishing the original order.



GRAND MARCH (continued)

4. Walking arches. The 1st cpl raises inside hands to an arch, but keeps moving. When the whole file is walking as an arch, the 1st cpl turns in, changes hands and ducks through the whole archway, immediately followed by the 2nd and following cpls. At the end of the archway they turn back again, making an arch (so everybody keeps moving). When coming at the beginning again, they can repeat the ducking, or just walk on.

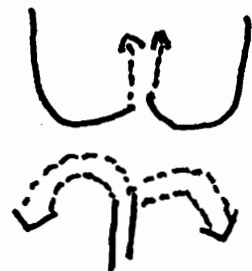
5. Separate to single file. The 1st cpl leads the file through the middle, up the hall. Coming to the end, they separate: the boy walking to the L, the girl to the R and leading their line along the long wall. (They must keep contact to move at the same pace.) When coming to the end of the long wall, there are several possibilities:

a. Crossing files. Both lead their file in a straight line over the diagonal. Both files will cross in the middle, where the boys let pass their ptr in front of them. Arriving at the corner, the files are led along the long wall again and the figure is repeated from the next corner, finishing again along the long wall.

b. Passing files. Both ptrs of the 1st cpl walk along the short wall twd each other and keep moving in this direction, the girls' file passing along the inside of the boys' file. When meeting again at the other side of the hall, the boys can pass at the inside, girls keeping the outside track.

c. Progressive chain. (Only when the grand R and L is known.) When meeting, ptrs of the 1st cpl pass each other giving R hands, then they pass the next giving L hands, and so on, thus starting a progressive grand chain. This will only be possible when the children walk in good distances. They must react correctly on the hand that is offered them by the 1st cpl. The figure can be repeated at the other side of the hall.

6. Buckle up two and spread. When meeting again, the 1st cpl marches through the middle again and coming to the end continues to the left, while motioning the next cpl to go to the right. The 3rd cpl must go to the L again, and the 4th to the R, and so on. Along both long walls there is walking a file of cpls now and when these meet (at the middle of the short side) there are again several possibilities.



GRAND MARCH (continued)

a. Under the arches. In one file all raise inside hands to make an archway, the other file passes below (all keep moving) at the next meeting this can be reversed.

b. Progressive dip and dive. The original 1st cpl makes an arch where the 1st cpl of the other file ducks under, then 1st cpl ducks under the arch of the next, over the 3rd, and so on. Every cpl that has passed the 1st goes on over and under, or under and over as the case may be.

c. Pass through. Instead of making arches, the two rows can also pass one going between the other. Either one whole file in between the other one, or the girls in between the file (that means, passing opp R shldr).

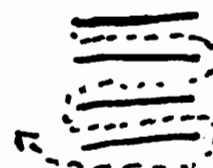


7. Buckle up four. When meeting again, the cpls of both files march up the hall in lines of four.

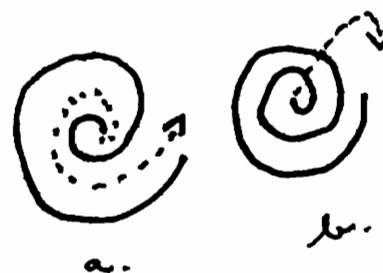


8. Buckle up eight. These lines of four can spread again. The 1st, 3rd, 5th, and so on going to the L, the even numbers to the R, and when meeting again, make lines of eight. (When dancing in a hall, you'd better not go farther, but if outside and with a great number of children, this could go on to lines of 16 or even 32.) These lines must come to a halt at about three meters' distance from each other.

9. "Snake." When the leading cpl did go to the L each time it will now be at the L side of the first line and can take the lead again. If not, the cpl standing there must do so. They lead the line through all following lanes and when the tail passes, it is always again the L side of the line that must join. (When the R side joins, this line will come in reversed.) At the end of the last lane the leader must take care to start moving in a circle CW, so that all will be facing in.



10. Winding. By moving CW a circle will be formed, and the line can be wound up by continuing inside the circle (but rather close to it). When the whole line is wound up to a spiral, there are different possibilities to get out again.



a. Unwinding. The 1st man turns L and walks back through the spiral lane. Everybody keeps going.

GRAND MARCH (continued)

b. Unwinding. All come to a standstill and the 1st man leads the line through arches straight out. There he continues going in a big circle CW and the spiral will be wound off from the inside.

11. Needle and thread. The leading man goes through an arch, made by the last cpl, the whole line following. Then reversed: The last girl through the arch of the 1st cpl.

12. Double needle and thread. Make a closed circle. The leading cpl makes a "needle" of their outside arms (stretching them forward and move, followed by their neighbors twd an arch opp them. As soon as they have come through, they let go of the ptr's hand and walk back to places along the own side of the circle, pulling the whole circle under the arch. This figure can be repeated with other cpls leading.



Presented by Femke van Doorn