

(6) “STATUES”

The following activity can encourage children not only to move and stop, but to move, in a different direction after each STOP.

Children grip the parachute firmly and hold it taut in a circle. They walk around in a circle in the same direction and STOP on a signal from the practitioner. (*Initially the signal to move and stop could be verbal or in response to a percussion instrument.*) Make this into a fun activity and when children STOP, they stop very still, like statues (*strong muscles*). “Can I see anyone moving?” etc. Once children are comfortable with the move and stop, let them try it to music.

ACCOMPANIMENT: “Musical Statues” - Track 5

When children first move to musical statues, they should move – STOP – move again in the **same** direction. When they are confident in their movements, they can progress to move – STOP – then move again in the **opposite** direction. (*The STOP could be unexpected e.g. Play a “pop” CD and stop it at different intervals.*)

(7) “MAKING A STATUE”

Choose three or four children to go under the parachute when the rest of the group make a high mushroom. The group guides the parachute down over the children in the middle who then move about to form a “statue”. They try to form a statue which has high and low parts and interesting shapes. They hold their shape still when it is complete and children around the chute try to guess which point of the shape is which child! Children pick up the parachute and unveil the statue and reveal the children’s shapes.

