

Rhythm is Your Friend - Grades 3 & Up

There is a focus in special education (especially with autism intervention) on structuring the student's visual environment. What about auditory information? Verbal instructions and dialog can also be overwhelming for students who have difficulty filtering for the important information they should attend to. Rhythm helps emphasize key words, add a predictable cadence, and naturally gets the body in sync with and tuned into the activity. This activity can be done with a single student or a small group.

How It Works

The teacher will need to keep a steady beat, either by clapping using a pre-recorded drum beat that can be found online. Here is a YouTube channel that has multiple drum options to choose from:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=lumbeat

Try this simple greeting chant:

- Let's go in a circle.
- Let's all play a game.
- When I get to you, tell me, what's your name?

Students can tap the syllables to their name on a drum to help with their articulation and pacing. Tapping a rhythm on the table, a knee, or a drum is also a great tool for students who speak too fast or are difficult to understand.

What You'll Need

Access to YouTube

Something for students to tap on; small drum, chopsticks, table or desk top. Or they can clap or pat their knees

