

Activity 3.28 Dance and Movement Techniques to Explore Systems Thinking (The Arts)

Module: 3. Local and Global Communities

Duration: 45 Minutes

Social Development Themes: Arts

Summary:

Using physical activity to demonstrate emergent behaviour and raise awareness of systems.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand the concept of community and connections between local and global community

Preparation and Materials:

Explanation of the term 'systems'. 'A set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network; a complex whole.'

Oxford Dictionaries.

Approach:

Explore the idea of emergent behaviour – the unconscious ripple effect in physical activities, or how physical movement in one part of the system can ripple throughout the system, enacting unexpected changes to physical movements elsewhere. Activities to explore this include: A circle with shoulders touching where the smallest ripples travel, making the whole group sway, or everyone repeating an action until it gradually and organically changes due to tiredness.

Alternate Approach:

Establish a physical system of interconnected people in the room where certain actions are mirrored and exaggerated by others and these are mirrored in a different way by others, creating a systemic reaction.

Explore the idea of emergent behaviour within society and how behaviour in systems can change over time due to the forces acting on the system.

Debrief:

This is a whole body of work that could be explored in more detail – systems thinking and movement.