

PURPOSEFUL PLAY

Small Group Games
and Learning Centers
for General Music

By Danielle Bayert

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Access reproducible 11x17 game templates online.



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ISBN-10: 1-4706-7782-2 | ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-7782-4

Game Types / Musical Concepts

	Rhythm	Treble Clef Note Names	Bass Clef Note Names	Curwen Hand Signs (Solfège)	Instruments of the Orchestra	Music Symbols	History and Culture
Jigsaw Puzzles	✓			✓	✓		
Board Games	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Dice Composition Games	✓	✓		✓			
Fly Swatter Games		✓	✓			✓	
Pizza Games			✓	✓		✓	
Beethoven Bucks					✓	✓	✓
Triple Stack Puzzles	✓				✓	✓	
Music Dominoes	✓			✓		✓	
I Have! Who Has?		✓			✓	✓	
Matching Games			✓			✓	✓

“Play is the work of childhood.”

— Jean Piaget

“Since the beginning of time, children have not liked to study. They would much rather play, and if you have their interest at heart, you will let them learn while they play.”

— Carl Orff

“Almost all creativity involves purposeful play.”

— Abraham Maslow

DICE COMPOSITION GAMES

Roll a Rhythm

Rhythm

Pentatonic Pitch Pattern

Treble Clef
Note Names

Solfège Song

Curwen Hand
Signs (Solfège)

Materials

- Prepared dice (four for each game)
- Composition chart (one for each game) (11x17 templates included in PDF)
- Classroom instruments; non-pitched for Roll a Rhythm, barred (and prepared with C-Pentatonic) for Pentatonic Pitch Pattern and Solfège Song

Preparation

1. Print one copy of the composition chart for each group.
2. Choose which dice to print based on the concepts you wish to teach.
3. Print four copies of your chosen dice on cardstock.
4. Laminate for durability, if desired.
5. Cut around the dice.
6. Fold on all of the lines.
7. Tape the dice together.



Store the dice in plastic bins to prevent damage.

Game Instructions

1. Give each group (two to four students) four dice.
2. Students roll the four dice and arrange them in a desired order, to create a composition.
3. Perform the composition and write it into the first four boxes of their composition chart.
4. Repeat steps one, two, and three until all four rows of the composition chart are complete.
Be sure students perform each row as they compose.
5. Once the composition chart is complete, students perform their composition on classroom instruments. If needed, have one student in the group point along with the composition as the group performs.