

## **Rhythmic Learning – extra considerations for music teachers**

Over the years we have deliberately chosen to target adults who have little or no musical training and experience, Only if we can succeed in giving them tools that work at a low, low cost will Rhythmic Learning be able to spread and be adopted universally.

Nevertheless we do realise that music teachers can also enjoy benefits from using Rhythm Fun games in their practice. And from our limited research we also know they fall into 2 opposite camps.

Some, often of the younger generation, embrace our games with enormous enthusiasm. They love the African style call and response, the way that large note heads enable reading skills to develop more easily and many more aspects. They also love the Rhythmic Learning songs, with easy2play parts that can be used in whole class instrumental situations.

The second group have come back with such comments as ‘I have my own system, don’t need anything new’; or ‘as a trained Kodaly expert my system is not to use note heads, but only the note tails. It’s a better way ...’ We conclude with a statement from Tracy, a music teacher, who first used RF games with her own children.

### A parent and teacher expresses her views on using Rhythm Fun games

When I first used the RF activities with my children, I noticed how my 4 year old struggled to walk or clap in time. Using the early RF activities, she made great progress in a very short space of time not only in her motor skills, but her concentration. The activities helped her learn to listen more carefully and respond.

From a teacher’s perspective, I could see how the activities inextricably linked on from each other in a systematic manner, but it was the later activities involving the discrimination of rhyming words and word play that made me think deeper. During my work n the primary classroom I have realised that many children are just not getting the experiences many of us take for granted as being part and parcel of childhood - storytelling, being read to or the sharing of traditional songs and nursery rhymes. These activities are the building blocks of a child’s emerging literacy. The RF activities encourage active listening and speaking, which children need to experience before any reading or writing can take place. RF bridges the gap!

RF's multi-sensory approach combining listening, movement and oral activities thoroughly engages children. Concentration, motor skills, timing and pattern recognition are developed plus the word games kick start a child's phonetic awareness and auditory discrimination, helping the child to widen their vocabulary, which in turn can help develop their social skills.

Anything that reaps so many benefits is a must for today's classroom and it is also simple enough and fun for Mum to use at home. Thumbs up!

<https://rhythmic-learning.co.uk/>