

Programming Ideas - Cultural Activities

Activity Name	Poi Poi making and dancing <i>(pronounced 'boy boy')</i> 'Poi' means Ball
Country/Culture/Language/Religion	Aotearoa (New Zealand)
Special Comments	Poi is a form of dance, where weights on the ends of tethers are swung through rhythmical patterns. It is rooted in the culture of the Maori people of Aotearoa (aka New Zealand), who dance with poi in traditional ceremonies.



Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore cultural music • To experience cultural dance • To practise movements
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Developmental Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive • Social • Language • Emotional • Fine Motor • Cross Motor
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Safety Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use safety scissors • Supervise at all times when dancing
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<p>Required Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scissors • Paper • Wool • Sticky tape • Dacron or plastic bags
<p>Method</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a plait with wool for the handle (length is up to you) • Leave long unplaited bits at the end • Make two balls out of paper. Wrap them with the Dacron or a plastic bag • Tie the balls to each end of the handle plait with the loose bits of wool • Secure with sticky tape • Cut off excess wool, paper, Dacron, plastic
<p>Ideas for extending the activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a dance lesson of traditional Maori dance with the poi poi • Explore other traditional dances and what instruments/ items are used • For small children the poi can be used as an eye-tracking object or as part of a mobile • A poi can be used as a prop/tool in a variety of games and activities • What other version (s) of this dance are there?

REFERENCES

1. This idea was shared with us by Carwyn Taitumu-Ponga from the Children Services Support Program (CSSP) in Alice Springs. Caryn delighted us during a workshop with the poi-poi dance! Thanks
2. Lots of videos of poi dances are available to watch on: <http://www.youtube.com>
3. <http://www.playpoi.com> (accessed 1803/09)