

Bounce and Boogie

Volume One: Good Woods

By Nina Brunner

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Review by Yael Loewenstein

When looking for fresh ideas for creative movement classes for children aged 3-7, *Bounce and Boogie* provides a thematically driven resource.

Volume One: *Good Woods* focuses on nature and animals, topics young children almost unanimously respond positively to. Making it an attractive package, the book is accompanied by a CD. The sixteen music tracks - most operating at the same upbeat tempo, reflect the division of the book into as many lessons.

Although clearly a labour of love and offering targeted activities children will respond to, the densely written explanations make it harder work than necessary to eek out the valuable ideas on offer. The material is a translation and could benefit from a further edit, as the syntax is at times cumbersome.

Illustrations are geometric and two-dimensionally tidy. The music production echoes this style and favours sound effects. Musical motifs are repetitive and at times are less than inspiring. However, used mixed into a play-list, tracks offer simply structured musical options.

Brunner notates a choreographic structure for the majority of the lessons, providing counts and descriptions of the movements. The section-by-section approach to composition makes it accessible to interpret. Her model would be useful for less confident teachers/facilitators looking for gentle approaches.

Overall, *Bounce and Boogie* offers pleasant ideas of how to encourage young children to explore movement creatively. The descriptions and presentation could be further refined. However each lesson idea could be easily integrated or used as a starting point for a creative movement class.

July 2011