

## Kung Fu

### Context

Here children enjoy preparing for a musical Kung Fu performance in Mandarin. The British Council Chinese language assistant and the school's Higher Level Teaching assistant (HLTA) have worked together to develop a programme of study linking Chinese culture and language.

### Exploration

Children respond very well to the praise and encouragement given by the assistant throughout this activity. They really enjoy using their bodies in a controlled and powerful way. They also appreciate this opportunity to do something quite different from normal work in the classroom. Physical activity and rhythm can engage some children who may appear uninterested in other types of learning. This activity provides a productive and enjoyable change from other work, re-energising children and teacher alike. Activities requiring a total physical response have enormous benefits in language learning. The use of body movements helps children to understand the language easily and engages them in actions which aid memorisation. The teacher can see straight away whether children understand. Children learn quickly by acting out the commands and saying the words at the same time. They develop and apply language learning strategies.

### Learning Outcomes

The children:

- perform simple communicative tasks using single words, phrases and short sentences
- listen attentively and understand instructions, everyday classroom language and praise words
- listen for specific words and phrases
- make indirect or direct contact with the country/countries where the language is spoken
- identify social conventions at home and in other cultures
- identify specific sounds, phonemes and words
- imitate pronunciation of sounds
- use actions and play games to aid memorisation
- look at the face of the person speaking and listen attentively
- use gestures to show they understand
- use mental associations to help remember words
- look and listen for visual and aural clues



## Next steps

This is clearly something which the children can show to parents and siblings. Children might:

- prepare a presentation on an aspect of Chinese culture and perform to an audience.
- record the performance on video to send to their partner school in China

## Development

Activities for daily routine

- Which physical language learning activities could you use for a few minutes every day with your class?
- In a language lesson try out a routine which you use in PE lessons.

The Teaching Activities in the KS2 Framework encourage use of physical responses whenever possible.

KS2 Framework Teaching Activities:

Year 3 Teaching Activities

Pages 23-30

Year 4 Teaching Activities

Pages 37-42

Year 5 Teaching Activities

Pages 49-54

Year 6 Teaching Activities

Pages 61-64

- Read through the Teaching Activities for Oracy in the KS2 Framework. Pick out some activities which involve a physical response, e.g. respond to a particular sound or word with an action.
- Look ahead in your termly plan. Which language learning activities in your plan can be practised using a total physical response?