

The Noughties

Areas of Learning

Primary

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
Mathematics and Numeracy

Post-Primary

Personal Development
Mathematics

Setting the Scene

This is the start of the new millennium. Play *Millennium* by Robbie Williams to introduce this decade. Talk to your learners about how this was the biggest party night ever. Then tell them that they are going to have their own party, just as everyone did back in 1999. Prepare the classroom for a party by decorating it with balloons, streamers, party tablecloths and banners. Display cut-out signs of the number 2000. Make these as tactile and sensory as you can. Talk to your learners about the year they were born. Ask whether anyone in the class was born in this decade.

What to Do

The class is going to have the biggest party ever. Gather all your learners into a circle. Talk about how important it is to make sure everyone is included, so it's time to check who is here today. Ask a member of staff to go around the group and interact on a one-to-one basis, using one or more of the following approaches. These will work extremely well if the learner is seated or lying on a resonance board.

Tap or Clap Names

Tap or clap to the syllables of each learner's name, for example Hel-lo Sa-rah would be four taps or claps.

Hide and find

Tap a simple tune, such as *Frère Jacques*, as you sing a rhyme to each learner.

Where is Sarah? Where is Sarah?
Here she is, here she is,
(another learner's name) can you find her?
(another learner's name) can you find her?
Yes you did, yes you did!

Try covering the learner, if they will accept this, with a light fabric. Then lift the fabric off to uncover them to the rest of the class.

Drumming

The party is getting louder and faster. Ask staff to drum on the resonance board, chanting 'the party's getting louder, the party's getting faster'. They should increase the speed of the drumming and vary the tone of the chanting, then suddenly stop. Observe your learners' reactions.

Party Time

Give each learner a party bag filled with items to interact with and explore. As they do this, play music from the decade.



What You Need

- Millennium party items
- Cut-outs depicting 2000
- Party poppers
- Pom-poms
- Music from the years 1999–2000
- Resonance board
- Party hat
- Party sash
- Piece of cake (be aware of individual needs)
- Party poppers
- Pom-poms
- Streamers
- Balloons
- Music on a tablet
- Perfume or aftershave
- Squirry cream
- Jelly
- Ice cream