

BEGINNING BAND:

Use these tools to teach:
Counting to 4 over and over in an even pattern.
Playing on a beat.
Being quiet on a beat.
Playing together.
Playing your own music at the same time as others play theirs.
Writing your own music.

Cut out the numbers as a strip and the quarter notes and quarter rests individually.

Begin by pointing at the #'s as you say them. Notice that you can do this slowly or quickly. This is called beat or tempo. It is important that you learn to count evenly and together so that when you do play you will play together. (1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4,1,3,2,3,4,....)
(We are beginning with the most common tempo - it can actually be called "common time" - which is 4/4 time. The top 4 indicates how many beats are in a group (measure) and the bottom 4 (quarter note) indicates what kind of note gets 1 beat.)

When you can count smoothly, decide to clap on one # (beat) instead of saying the #'s. When that is smooth, change the # you choose.
Are you having trouble remembering when you are to clap? That's why we have the notes. The notes are there to tell you when to make your musical sounds. Now place one note over the # (beat) that you are going to clap. Move the note around and "play" your music.

Try it now with 2 notes. They each must have their own beat. Practice moving them around and playing your music.

Are you having trouble seeing what note goes with what # (beat) and when to be quiet? Try adding the quarter rests. They help you know when to be quiet. Each of them must have their own # (beat)!

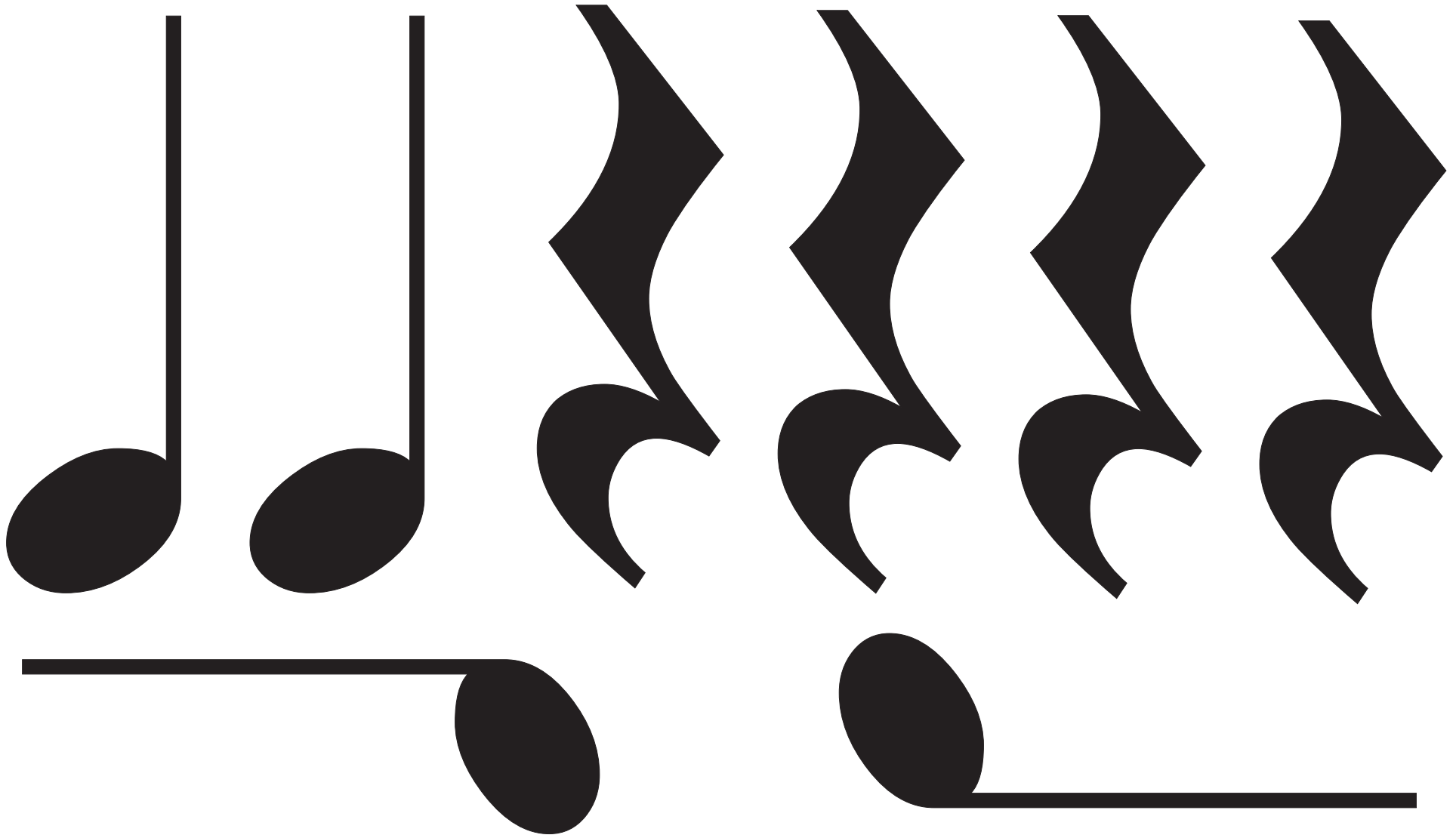
Now that you can play through the quarter notes and rests, try putting two sets (measures) of #'s (beats) together so you can have a longer song. You will not count to 8, but will start over counting to 4 again with each set (measure) of #'s (beats) added.

The next step is to have two people with the same sets of music play together. Then have their music be different and still have them play together. Add people and music until you are both having great fun and have learned how to play just your part while others play theirs.

At any point in this process, vary the instruments that you play - voice, shakers, hands, feet, pot lids, whatever you have!

You'll have a fun and wonderful band in no time at all!

Blessings!
Grandma



Cut here

1

2

3

4