

'Ride of the Valkyries' from 'Die Walküre' by Richard Wagner

Activity ideas for young people with sensory impairments

The Ride of the Valkyries is from an opera by Wagner known as “Die Walkure” which in turn is one of 4 operas that together form “Der Ring des Nibelungen” more commonly known as “The Ring”. The Valkyries are women from Norse mythology who have the power to decide who lives and who dies in battle.

Module: Communication and Interaction. (This can be a standalone lesson, or repeated to allow further development of skills)

This module will focus on developing the understanding of power and strength. It will also allow pupils to experience the “crescendo” (building up) of power through changes to environment, volume and physical movement before “diminuendo” (fading out).

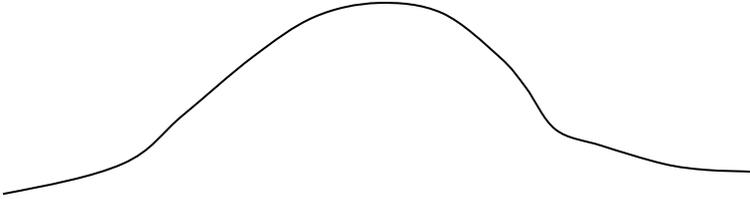
Each activity is designed to run using the main theme track, rather than the building blocks track.

Outcome: pupils learn to respond to a range of stimuli and may demonstrate like/dislike

Outcome: pupils use their arms with purpose

Outcome: pupils develop a greater awareness for their environment and changes within it

Stimuli	Context	Track ref (in secs)	Teaching suggestion	Pupil response	
Parachute	Crescendo (Building up)	0-18	Pupils sit in a circle facing inwards Staff hold a parachute, pupils are encouraged to hold/grip if they are able Start by gently shaking the parachute but keeping it at (pupil) waist height	Pupils aware of the sound and feel of gentle movements	
		18 - 27	Continue shaking the parachute but lift up to (pupil) head height	Pupils may attempt to look up or show an awareness that the parachute is in a different place	
		27 - 36	Return to shaking parachute at (pupil) waist height		
		36 - 44	Staff to make waves with the parachute reaching above (pupil) head height	Pupil experience an increase in the draft created and will make individual responses to this	
		44 - 54	Return to shaking parachute at (pupil) waist height		
	Climax (Power)	54 - 1m	Staff work together to lift parachute up (arms fully stretched) and down increasing in speed to increase the sensory impact		Pupils are able to experience an increase in "power" and "force"
		1m - 1m 20s			
		1m 20s - 1m 30s			
		1m 30s – 1m 38s			
	Diminuendo (Fading away)	1m 38s – 1m 47s	Return to shaking parachute at (pupil) waist height	Pupils will experience the music calming and the physical changes in the parachute movement. They may calm and still in response.	
1m 47s – 1m 55s		Continue shaking the parachute but lift up to (pupil) head height			
1m 55s – 2m 08s		Return to shaking parachute at (pupil) waist height			
2m 08s - End		Stop shaking the parachute but leave it over the pupils' laps/over their hands as the music fades.			
Paint	Creating a picture	0-54	Pupils work on table tops/paper using a range of different colours. You can use flat hands, painting mitts, sponges etc. Pupils with hand over/under hand support start by making small circles that get bigger		
		54-1m 38	Encourage pupils to pat the table top/painting in time to the beat (use a rhythm such as "strawberry cream" "apple and pears")		
		1m 38s - End	Pupil go back to making large circles in paint and gradually reducing to small circles		
	Creating a wave	Work without music track	Pupils to work from left to right starting with hands to pupils' own left side and close to body, gradually moving to the right and stretching arms forward before finishing on pupils' right side with hands close to	Pupils learn to work from left to right across the page and to work in a wider area, extending and	

			<p>body. This should create a “wave” shape on the page/tray.</p>  <p>If pupils are working on a tray/table top, a plain piece of paper can be placed over the top to make an “image” of their piece.</p>	<p>retracting their arms. They will also be encouraged to stretch/straighten their fingers from a closed fist position.</p>
		<p>Extension</p>	<p>Different colours can be given to introduce a “choice” Different mediums can be used eg; sand, shaving foam, flour, touch screen devices</p>	