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Six-Step Shuffle: An Engineering Song

Excerpted from "Artful Engineering" workshop
By Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist Jeanne Wall

Have the children stand. Teach the Six-Step Shuffle and then put it to music. The teacher creates gestures to illustrate the steps. In addition to the gesture, for each step, the child will take a small step into the circle. Following the fifth step (it doesn't work, try again), everyone shuffles quickly backwards to his/her original spot while drumming on legs and making drumming sounds. Then we begin again. Repeat the pattern three times. On the third try, it worked! Time for the sixth step: share the results and spread the news. Use cards to cue gestures.

"Six-Step Shuffle"
By Jeanne Wall

When I have a problem or something I need,
I use engineering's six steps to succeed.
Step One: *(Step forward with one foot)*
What's the problem, what needs to be done? *(Gesture open arms then tap finger to head.)*
Step Two: *(Step forward)*
Make a plan, decide what to do.   *(Have one hand be paper, the other hand draws on the "paper.")*
Step Three: *(Step forward)*
Build it very carefully.   *(Gesture hammering.)*
Step Four: *(Step forward)*
Test it, try it out to be sure.   *(Gesture using the pulley to put feeders in the tree.)*
Step Five: *(Step forward)*
If it doesn't work, no need to cry.
Shuffle on back for another try.   *(Drum roll on legs with vocal drum sound as shuffle feet back to starting place.)*

Repeat three times. Third time, replace step five with the following:

Step Five…Wait! It worked this time!
Time to share the results and spread the news. *(Gesture calling around you.)*
That when I have a problem or something I need,
I use engineering's six steps to succeed.   *(Walk back, wave hands.)*