

Arts Assessment For Learning

MUSIC — 3RD GRADE

HOW TO & TIPS: BEGINNER RECORDER SKILLS

Sizzling: In order to train my students to use correct articulation, I asked them to perform something called "sizzling" while practicing and counting their rhythms. This method is executed by pronouncing a "TS" sound, imitating the sound of liquid hitting a hot frying pan. This allows the students to practice the beginning attack with their tongue and hold out the longer rhythm values.

Practice triangle: Students use this tool to learn each new piece of music on their recorders. There are five steps:

1. Clap the rhythm and saying 'Ta'
2. Clap the rhythm while saying the written pitches
3. Sizzle the rhythm (consisting of making a 'TSS' sound as if imitating a droplet of water on a hot frying pan) to practice tonguing the rhythm and holding out the longer rhythms
4. Finger the notes while saying the pitch names in rhythm
5. Play the whole piece.

In my practice, reinforcing this process each time a student is learning a new piece gives them the best strategy to succeed when playing a new piece. This protocol also assists the students in detecting when they have gone wrong in basic performance of the piece. They can go back and work on the specific section that will give them the most improvement in the area that needs work.

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