



Building Rhythm Confidence with Figurenotes

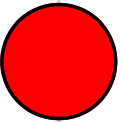
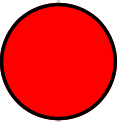
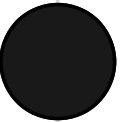
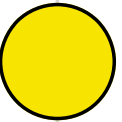
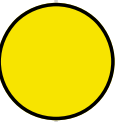
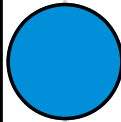
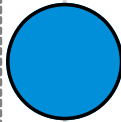
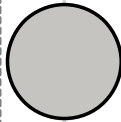
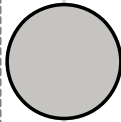
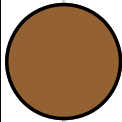
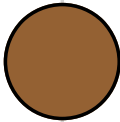
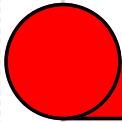
Lauren Clay (she/her) &
Rebecca Di Rollo (she/her)

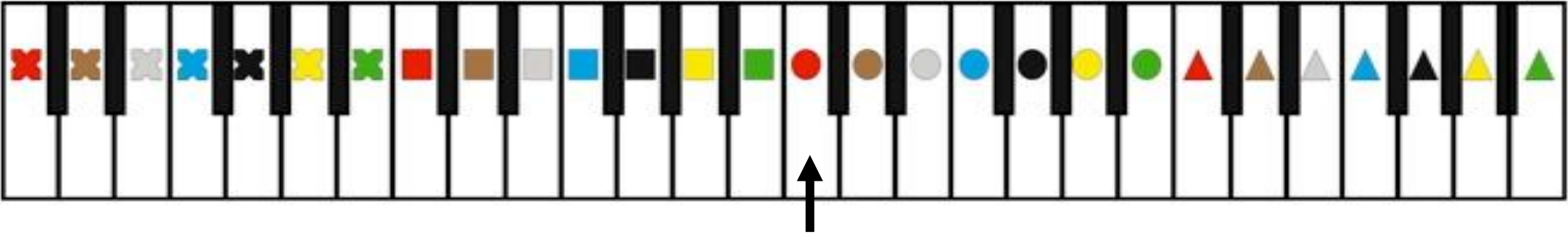
Music Mark Conference 2023



Guess the tune

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

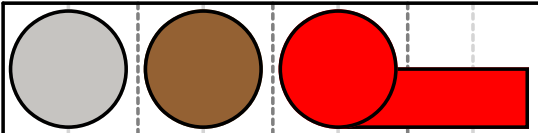
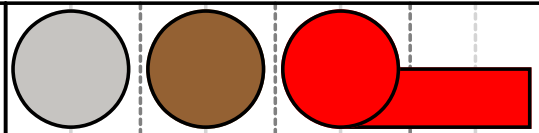
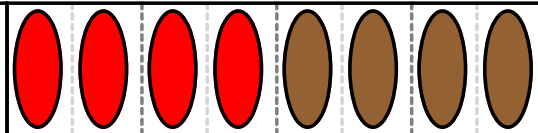
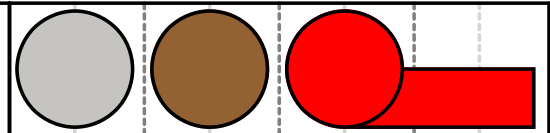


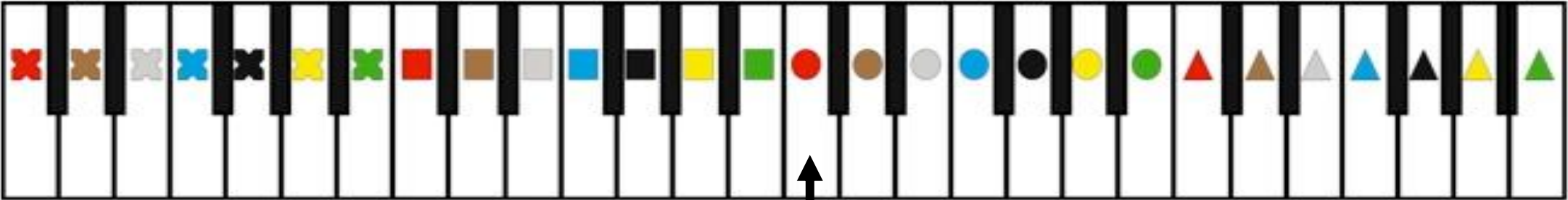
A diagram of a piano keyboard with 88 keys. The white keys are numbered 1 to 88 from left to right. The black keys are numbered 1 to 24 from left to right. Various colored markers are placed on specific keys: red 'x' on white key 1, brown 'x' on white key 2, grey 'x' on white key 3, blue 'x' on white key 4, black 'x' on white key 5, yellow 'x' on white key 6, green 'x' on white key 7, red square on white key 8, brown square on white key 9, grey square on white key 10, blue square on white key 11, black square on white key 12, yellow square on white key 13, green square on white key 14, red circle on white key 15, brown circle on white key 16, grey circle on white key 17, blue circle on white key 18, black circle on white key 19, yellow circle on white key 20, green circle on white key 21, red triangle on white key 22, brown triangle on white key 23, grey triangle on white key 24, blue triangle on white key 25, black triangle on white key 26, yellow triangle on white key 27, and green triangle on white key 28.

Middle C

Guess the tune

Hot Cross Buns

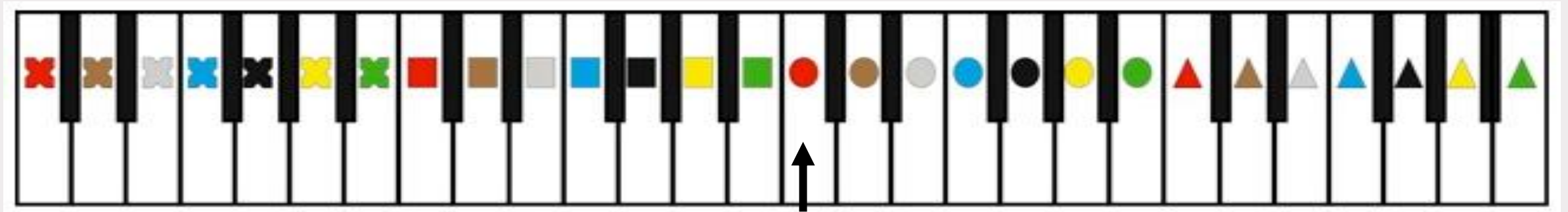
			



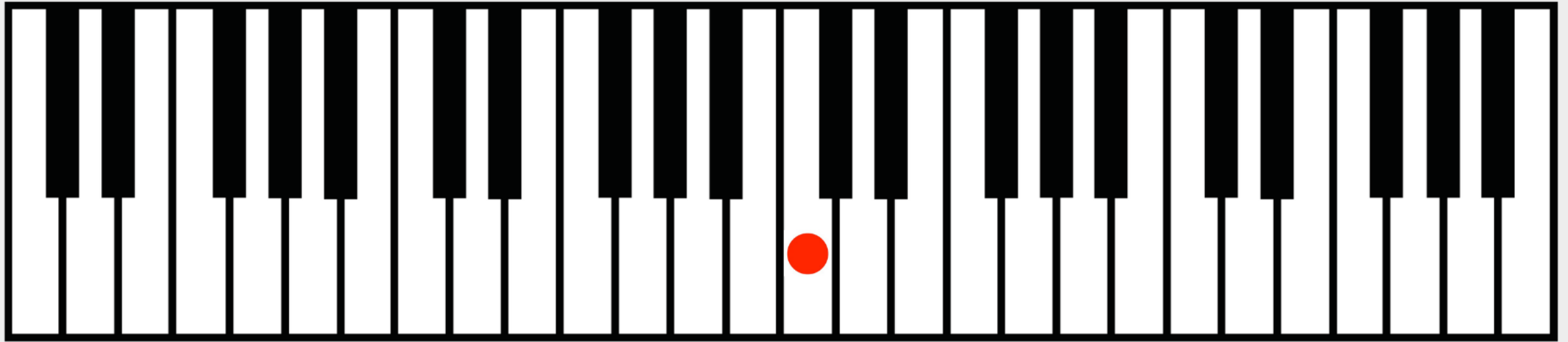
Middle C

Figurenotes is...

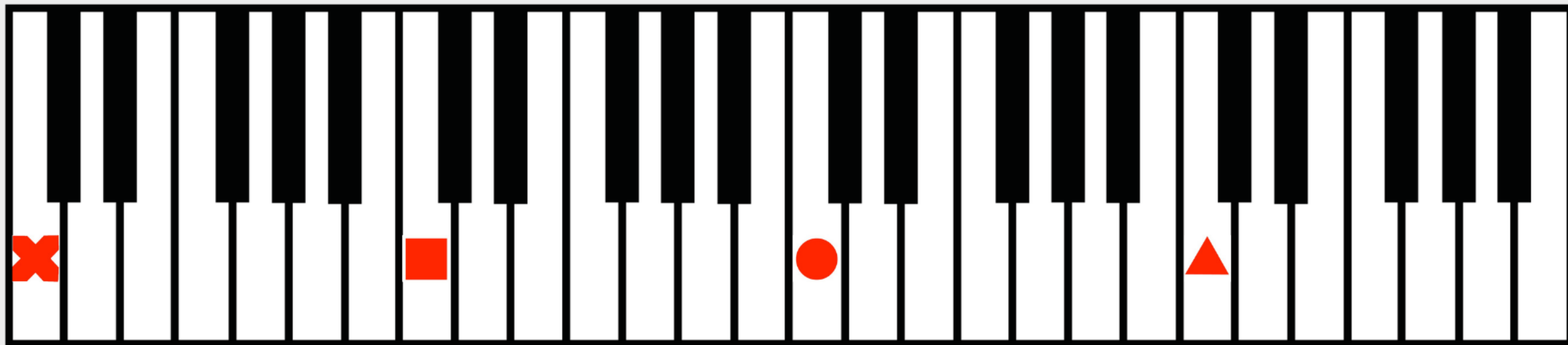
An alternative notation using colour and shape to show pitch and rhythm



Middle C

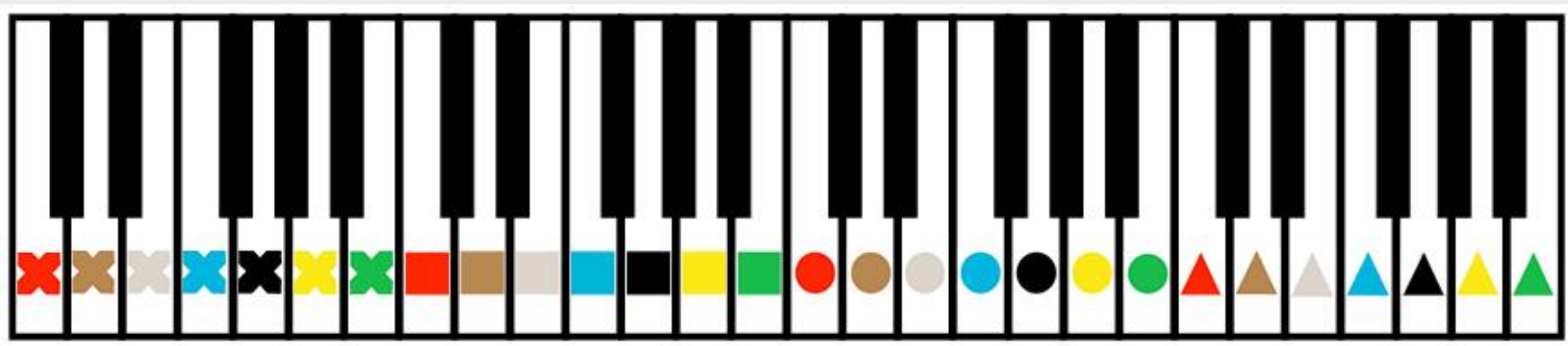


Each note has a colour



Each note has a colour

Each octave has a shape



Colour = note

Shape = octave

An adaptable way of working that
fits with your current resources

Accessible, immediate,
and confidence building

Two ways to use Figurenotes

1. Match and Play

Stickers on the instrument

Great for percussion, strings, guitars, keys

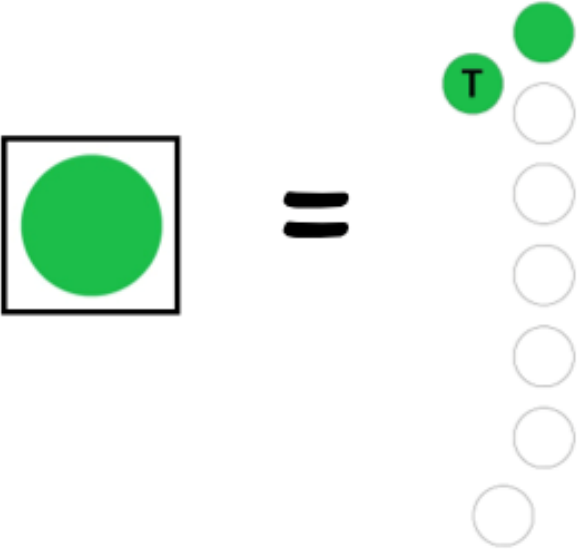


Two ways to use Figurenotes

2. Teach the fingering

Link to colour and shape

Great for wind and brass

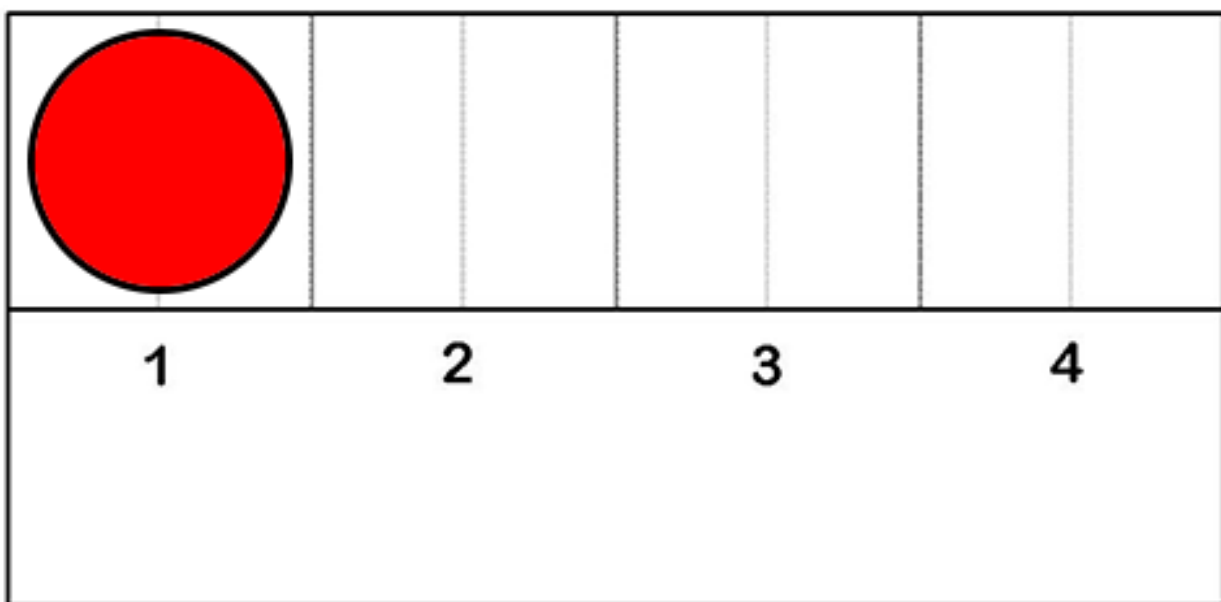


Trompete + Cornet

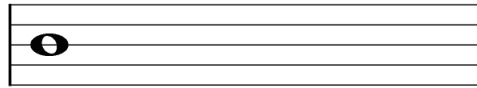
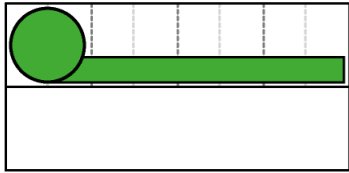
A musical staff for Trompete + Cornet. The staff contains figurenote symbols for the notes Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, and Do. Each symbol is accompanied by a number indicating the finger used: Do (13), Re (12), Mi (1), Fa (12), Sol (12), La (2), Ti (1), and Do (1). The symbols are colored and shaped to represent the notes: Do (red circle), Re (brown circle), Mi (grey circle), Fa (blue circle), Sol (black circle), La (yellow circle), Ti (green circle), and Do (red triangle).

A musical staff with figurenote symbols for the notes Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, and Do. Each symbol is accompanied by a number indicating the finger used: Do (13), Re (12), Mi (1), Fa (12), Sol (12), La (2), Ti (1), and Do (1). The symbols are colored and shaped to represent the notes: Do (red circle), Re (brown circle), Mi (grey circle), Fa (blue circle), Sol (black circle), La (yellow circle), Ti (green circle), and Do (red triangle).

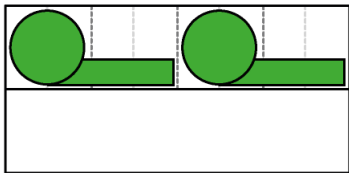
A musical staff with figurenote symbols for the notes Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, and Do. Each symbol is accompanied by a number indicating the finger used: Do (13), Re (12), Mi (1), Fa (12), Sol (12), La (2), Ti (1), and Do (1). The symbols are colored and shaped to represent the notes: Do (red circle), Re (brown circle), Mi (grey circle), Fa (blue circle), Sol (black circle), La (yellow circle), Ti (green circle), and Do (red triangle). To the left of the staff is a diagram of a recorder.



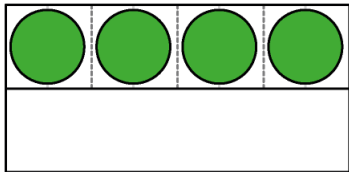
Rhythm



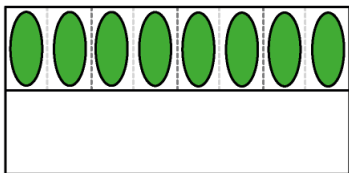
Literal and clear.
The note is as long as it looks.



All bars are the same size.
The notes fill as many beats as
required.

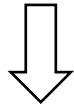


Standard rhythm notation is
introduced in stage 3 of
Figurenotes.



Bars

If bars have the same number of beats,
they are the same size.

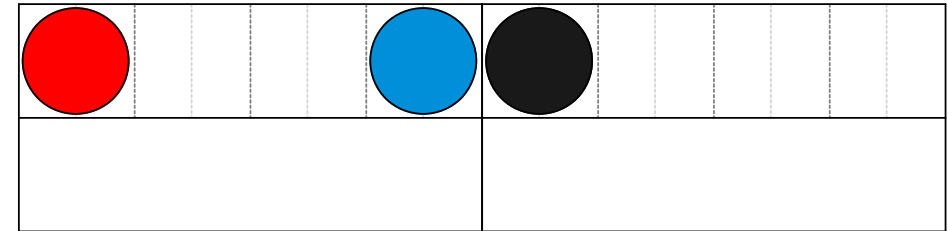


This literal and visual system improves
sense of pulse.

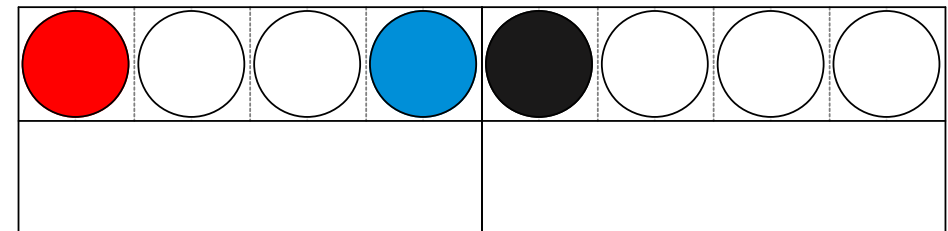
No confusion over differing bar lengths

Rests

If there is no note, there is no sound.



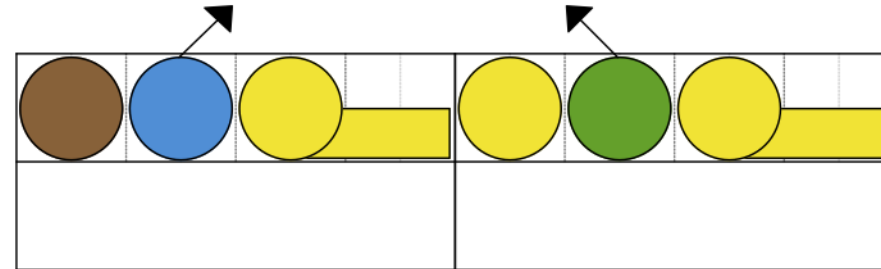
White icons can be used as rests.
Some learners find counting easier with this method



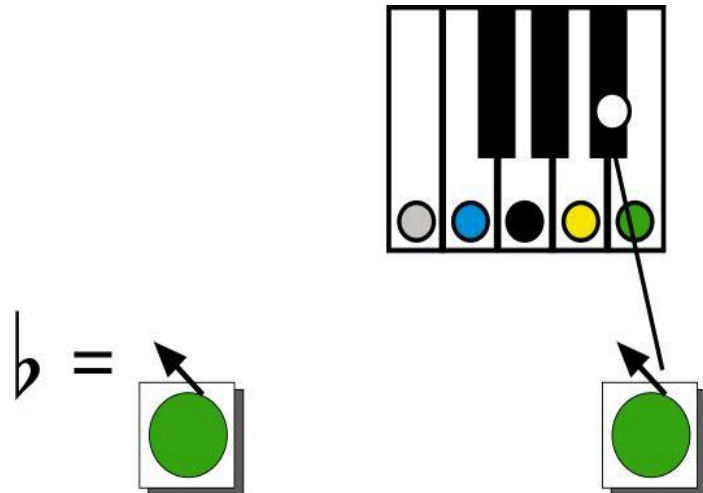
Sharps and Flats

Shown by arrows.

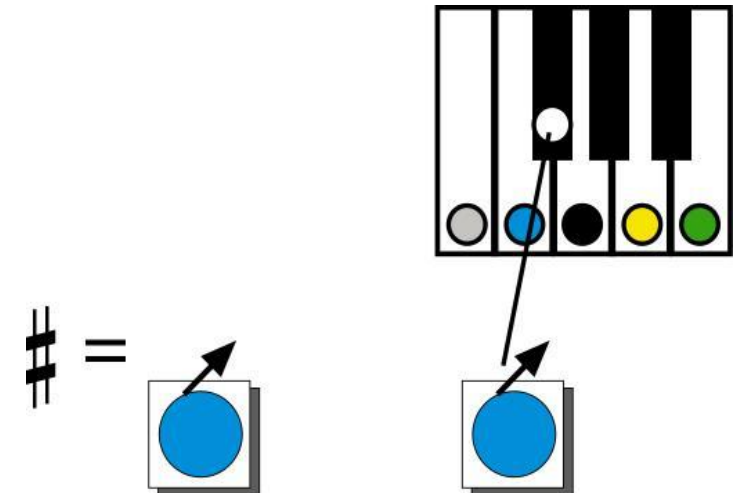
On some instruments, you just move your hand in the direction of the arrow



An arrow to the left is a flat



An arrow to the right is a sharp

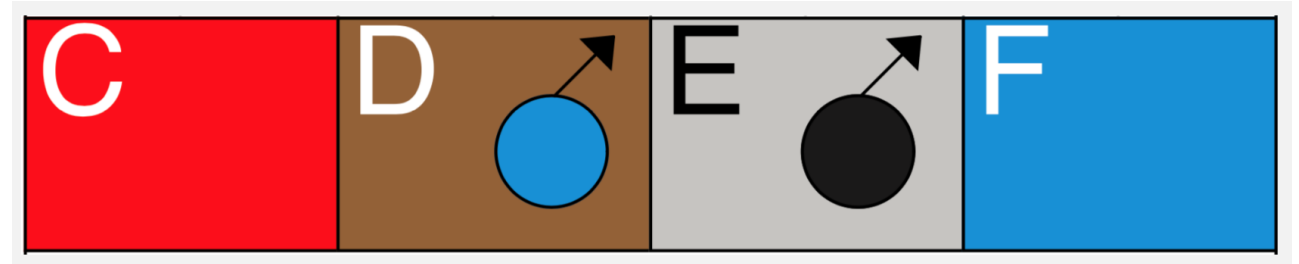


Chords

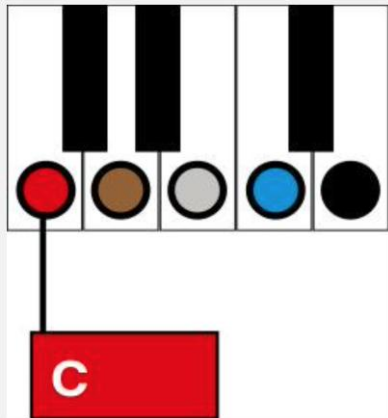
Shown by chord boxes. →

The box is the colour of the root note.

Sharps and flats are shown in the chord box.

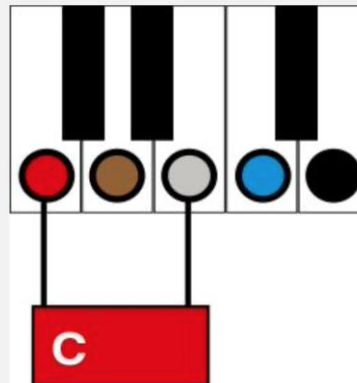


Play the colour



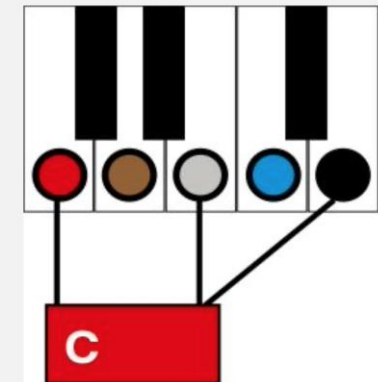
Root note (1st)

Play the colour and a friend
(not a neighbor)



Root note (1st) and 3rd

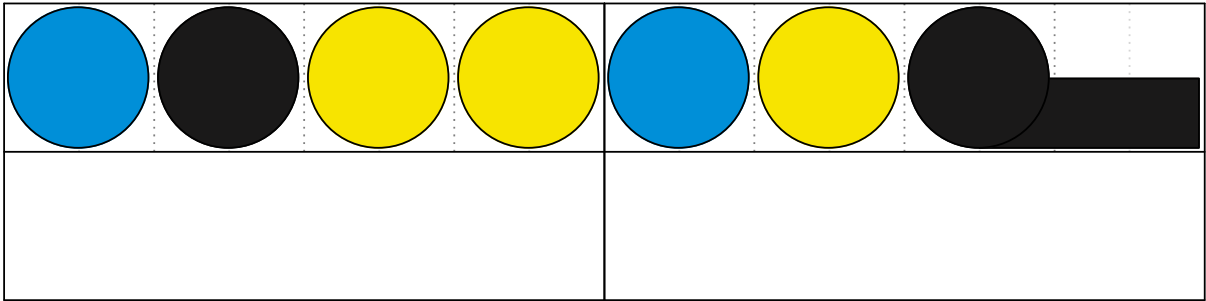
Play the colour and two friends
(not neighbours)



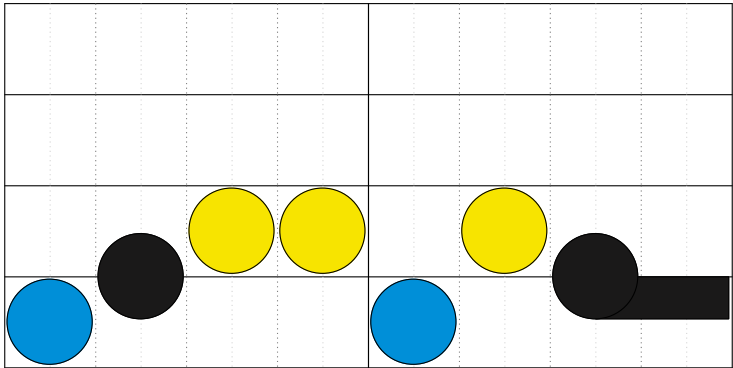
Root note (1st), 3rd and 5th - **TRIAD**

Progression

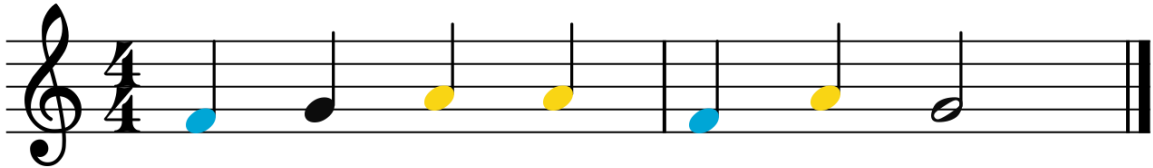
Stage 1
All on one line



Stage 2
Same information
on the staff



Stage 3
Coloured noteheads





Supports Variety of Needs and Learning Styles



"I have been teaching a boy of 5 who is on the high end of the autistic spectrum. Today he had only his fourth lesson with Figurenotes but he was playing Old Macdonald - it made him so happy that he had done that, and he wouldn't stop jumping up and down!"

"I had a pupil who could not read notation due to Dyslexia. She managed to get an A in higher music with piano as her second instrument. She is now in 2nd year of Teacher Training. It is a fabulous way to learn and is such a confidence builder."

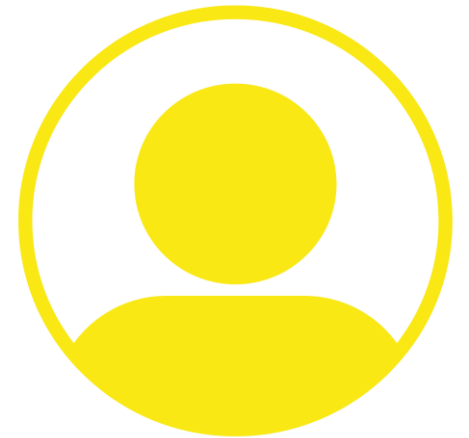


Supports Variety of Needs and Learning Styles



"Figurenotes helps him do what he wants to do, which is play and sing music! Much of the time he refuses to engage in learning and shuts himself away in a quiet room to pursue his own interests, often to draw."

"One girl, B, learned to play 5 Figurenotes colours for the first time last week and learned a full tune this week. "I did so well" I heard her say in the corridor after the session. The staff were delighted."



Supports Variety of Needs and Learning Styles

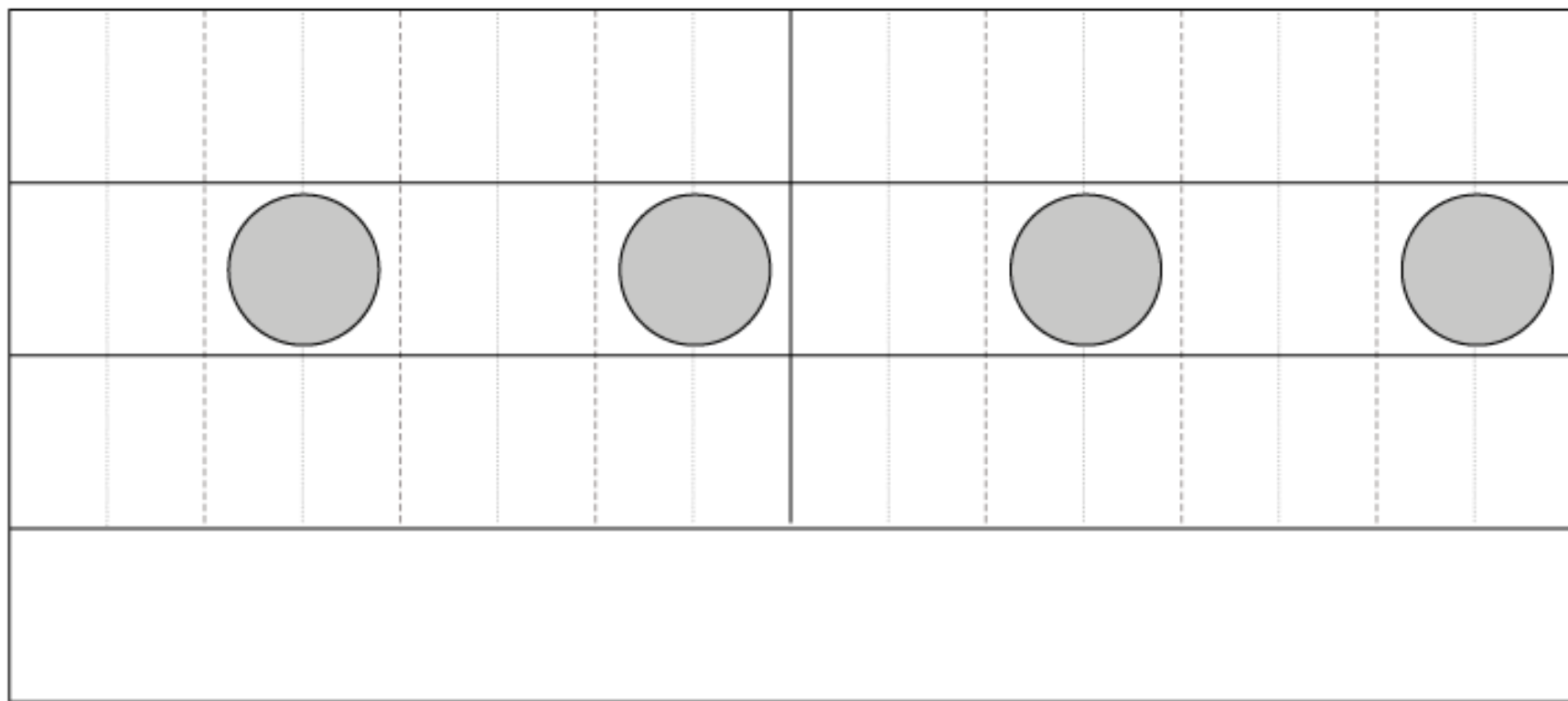
Improves Access and Confidence

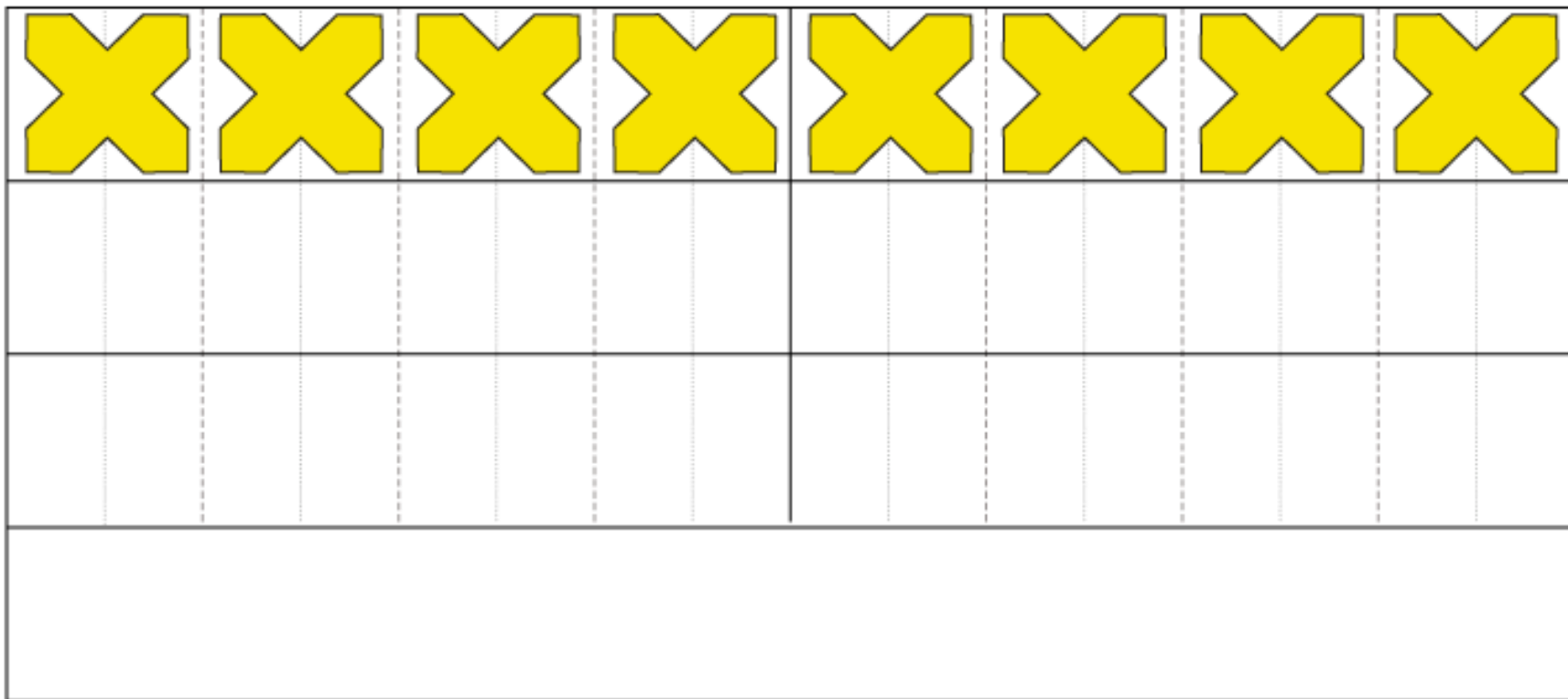
- Removes initial barriers
- Less abstract, more literal
- If you can match, you can play
- Progressive

Variety of Settings

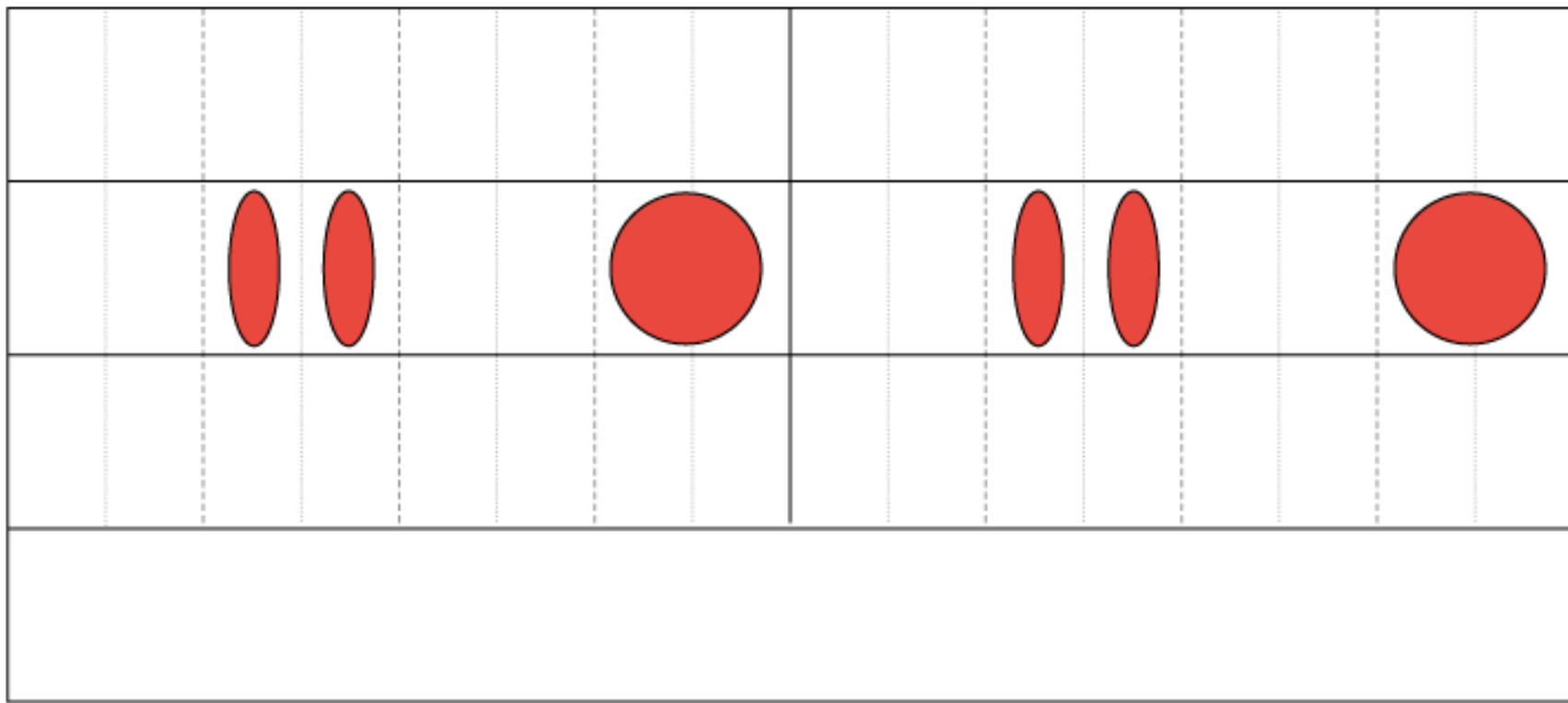
- 1:1
- Early Years
- Groups / Ensembles
- Classroom: ASN/SEND/Mainstream
- Composition

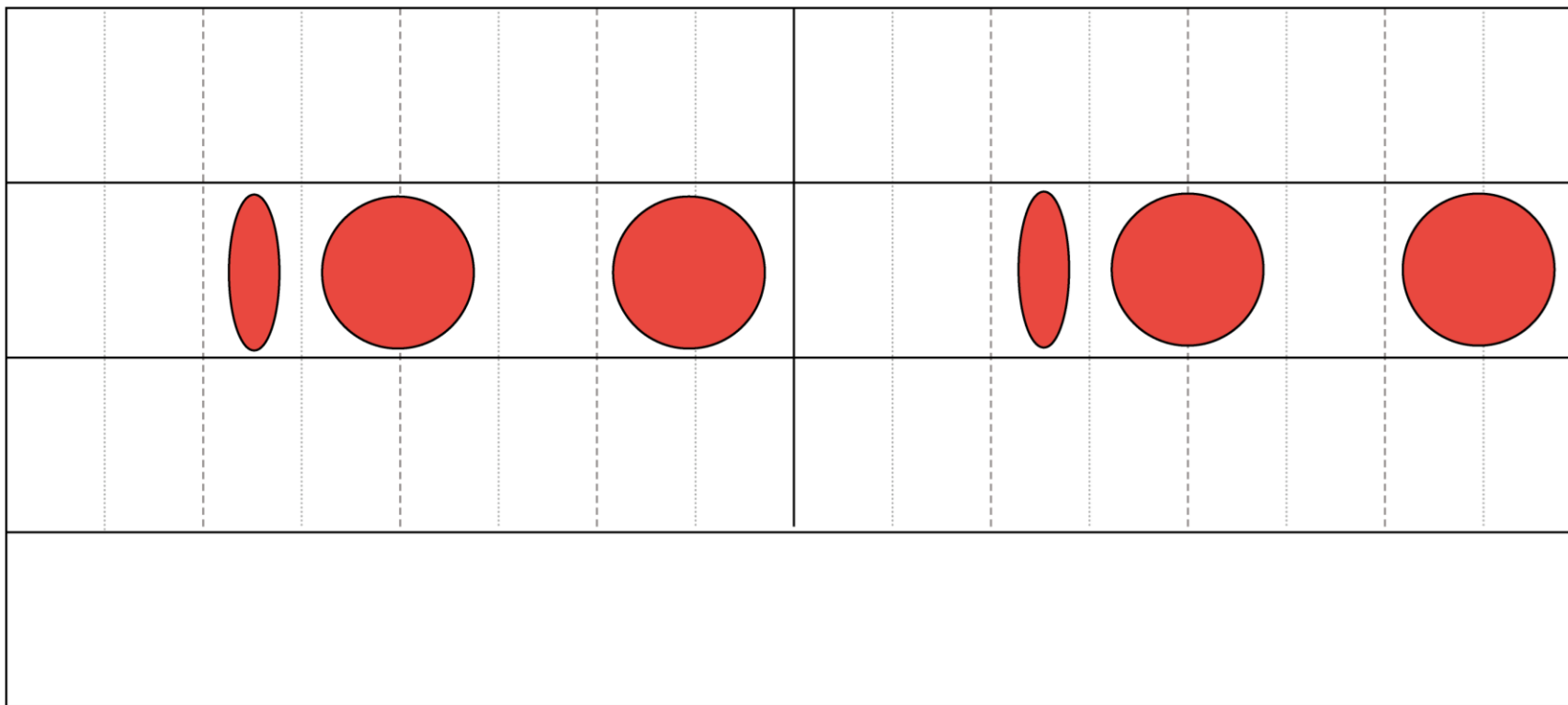
Less Talking More Doing

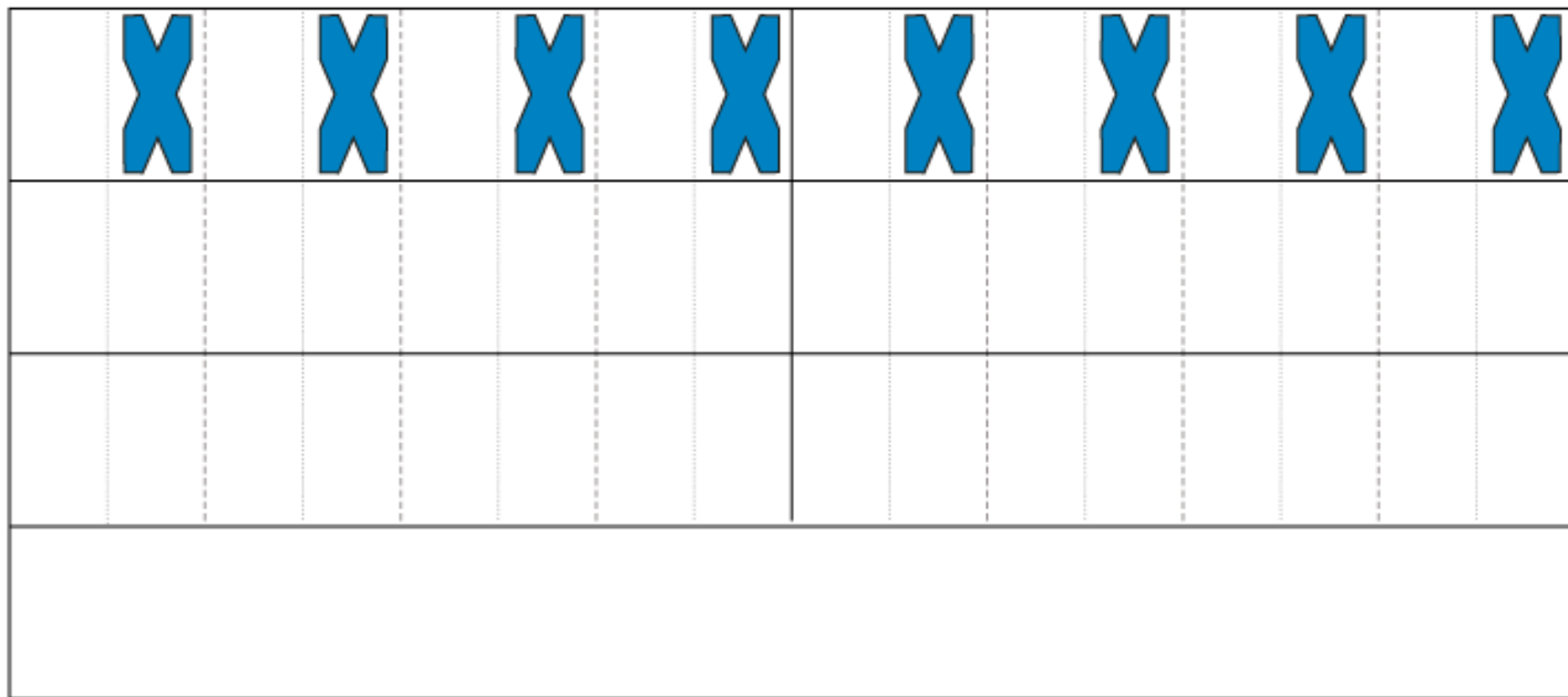


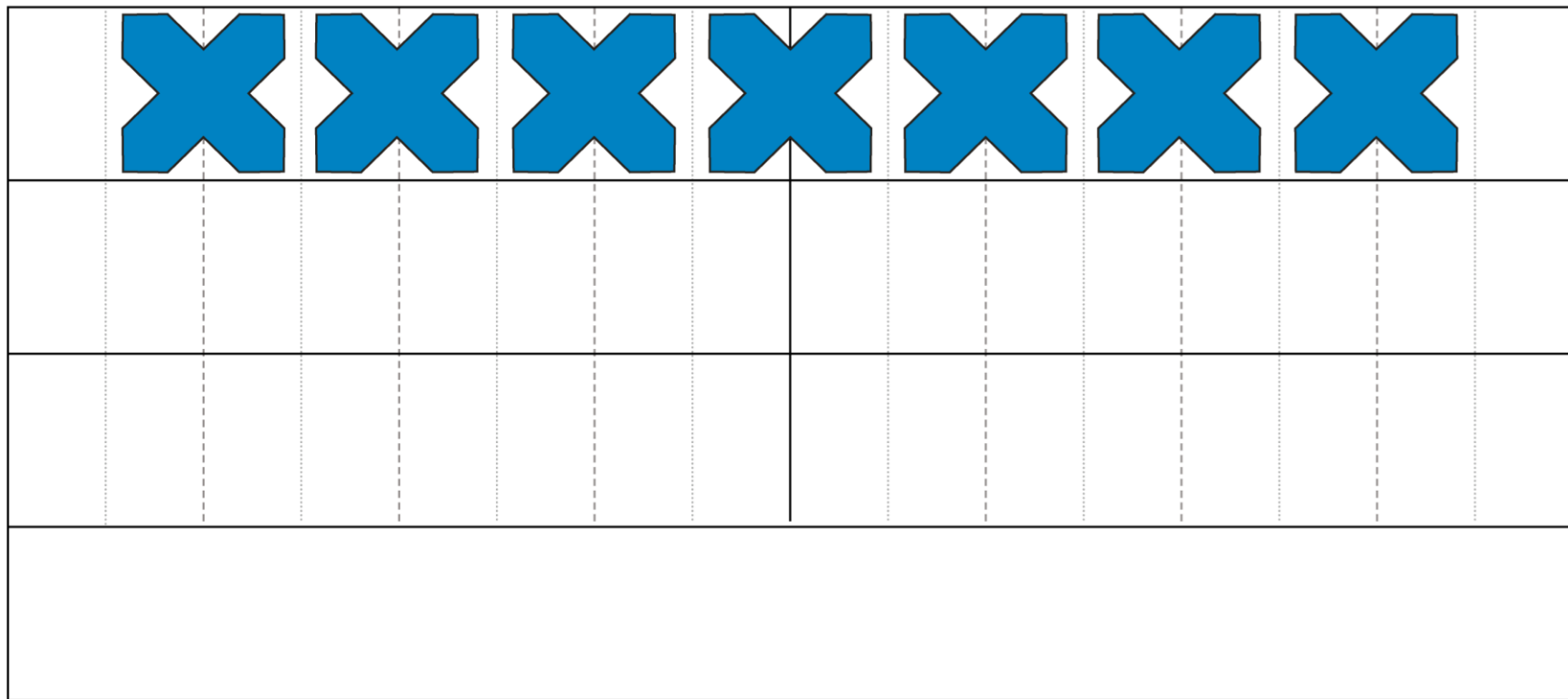


Nice!



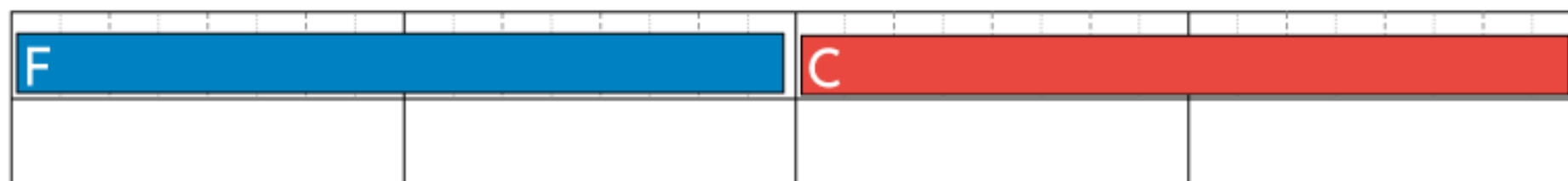
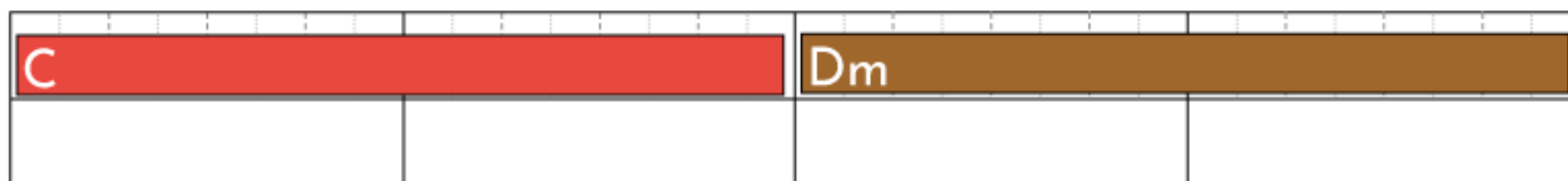






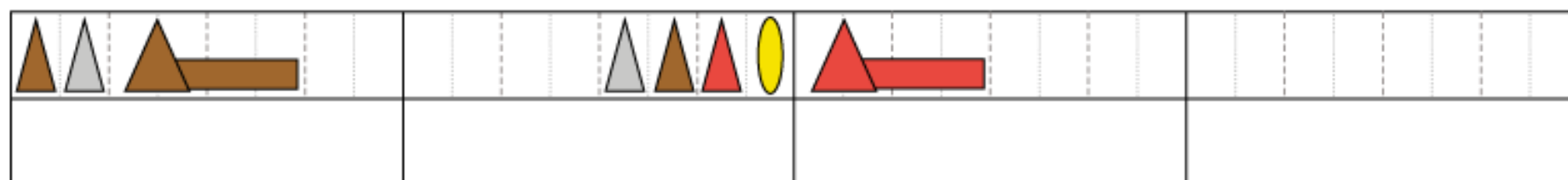
Don't Worry, Be Happy - Chords

Bobby McFerrin



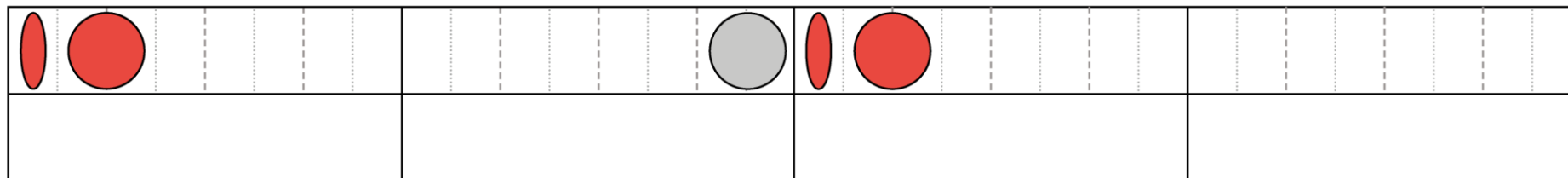
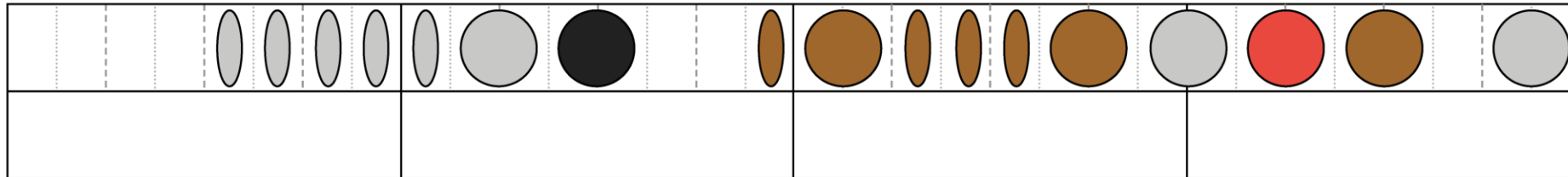
Don't Worry, Be Happy - Melody A

Bobby McFerrin



Don't Worry, Be Happy - Melody B

Bobby McFerrin



C	Dm	F	C

Here's a little song I wrote
You might want to sing it note for note
Don't worry, be happy

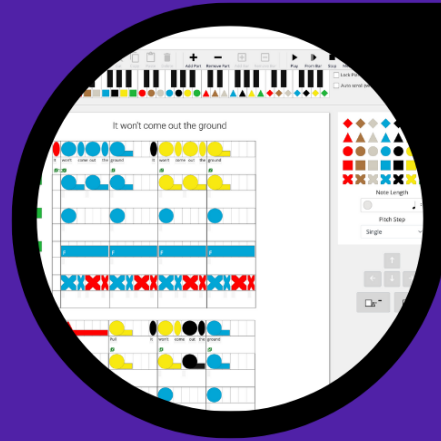
In every life we have some trouble
But when you worry, you make it double
Don't worry, be happy

Ain't got no place to lay your head
Somebody came and took your bed
Don't worry, be happy

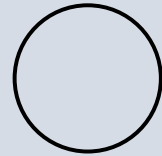
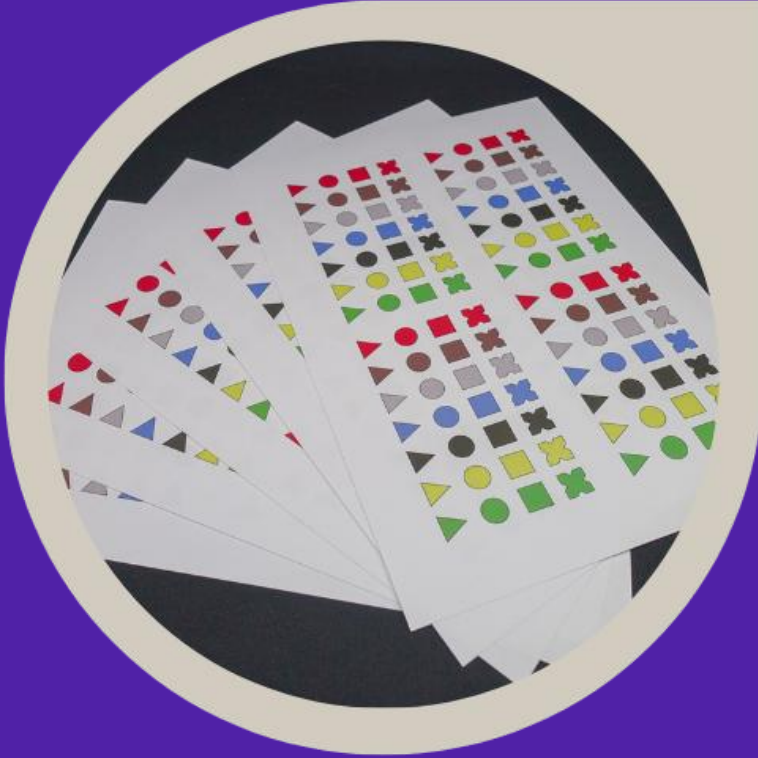
The landlord say your rent is late
He may have to litigate
Don't worry, be happy

Ooooooooooh – Don't Worry
Ooooooh – Be Happy
Ooooooooooh - Don't Worry, Be Happy

Resources



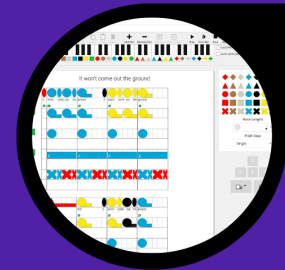
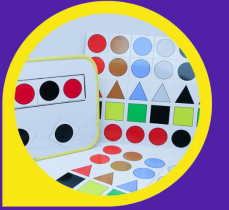
Resources



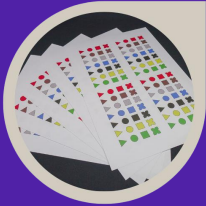
Stickers

Stick these to anything you want to match to – keys, chimes, percussion.

Each sheet does 4 keyboards (4 x 4 octaves). You can get value packs of 5 sheets (20 keyboards).



Resources



Magnets

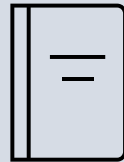
Fantastic for rhythm games

Build chord progressions

Use to improvise or compose



Resources



Tune Packs

Festive Figurenotes

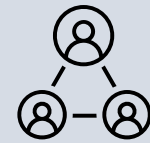
Figurenotes Folk Tunes

Classical Pack

First Figurenotes



Resources



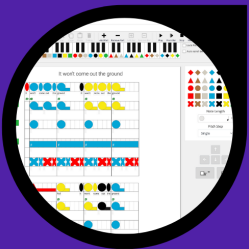
FAM Hub

Online library of resources

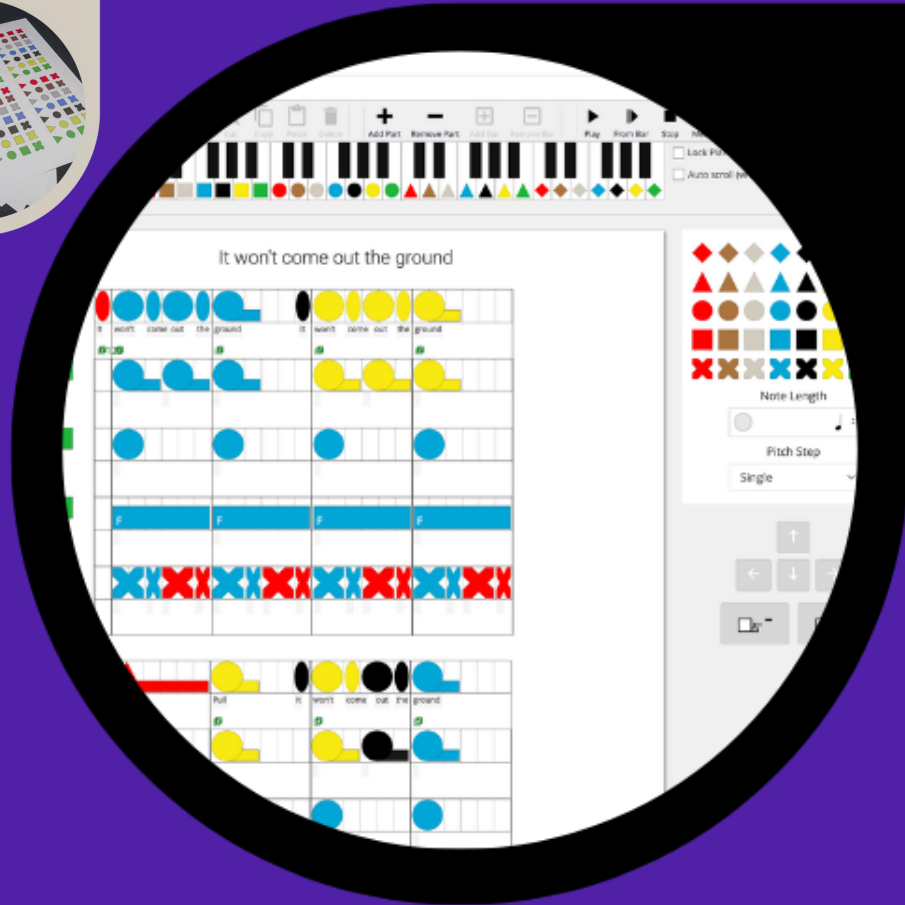
Accessed via subscription

Upload your own to share with others

Private classroom spaces



Resources



Notate

Figurenotes notation programme

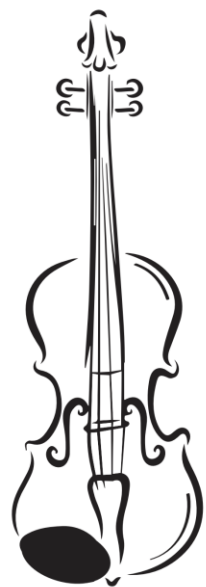
Access via web browser

Create/import stage 1 and 2 resources

Export xml, midi, and pdf

Accessible programme with hidden advanced features





Violin Set Up

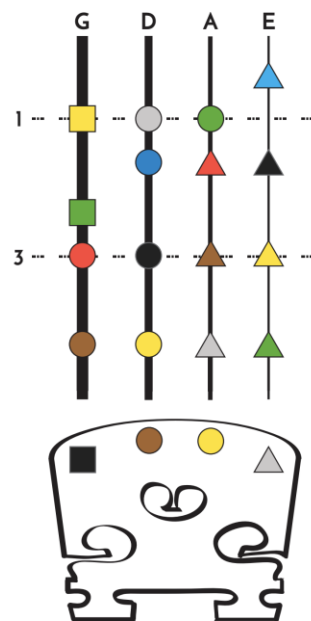
Put Figurenotes stickers on the natural notes.

An added benefit of using this method is that the placement of sharps and flats will be ingrained from the outset.

If you still wish to have a strip under the 1st and 3rd fingers, use a white strip, so as not to confuse the colours.

Put stickers on the bridge for the open strings.

Alternatively, place these on the end of the fingerboard closest to the bridge.



Free Instrument Guides

How to set up your instrument, including sticker placement guides and finger charts

Free Tutorial Videos

- Piano
- Guitar
- Early Years
- Action Songs
- Rhythm Games

BBC Ten Pieces

Available via our website or BBC Ten Pieces website

Blogs, video tutorials,
downloadable resources,
software, and shop

www.figurenotes.org

Free Resources Bundle

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downloadable resources,
software, and shop



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