



## LESSON 13 LEVEL A FIGURES IN ACTION

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

drawing a familiar group activity

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

crayons; drawing paper

**NOTE TO PARENTS:** When asked to draw groups of people, young children often depict the figures radiating from a circle in the middle of the paper. This is a stage in their development. It reflects their understanding of the term "circle". Slightly older children draw what they observe: feet on one or more baselines and figures perhaps overlapping...but sometimes in a single row with very long arms joining the two end figures! Either of these responses is a good place to start for closer observation.

## CIRCLE DANCE



Ted De Grazia Los Ninos 1960

### GETTING STARTED:

Think of circle games you have played with other children. Perhaps it was "Ring around the Rosie," "The Bunny Hop," or "The Hokey Pokey." Or, you could get together some of your friends and *do* a circle dance, holding hands to form a ring. Pay attention to the figures in action.

1. Look at the boys and girls dancing. Notice how the hands and arms join the group together. See the knees bend. Watch the hair bounce up and down. Can you see everybody's face all the time?
2. With crayons and paper in front of you *think* how you will draw the Circle Dance picture. Then begin to draw the children dancing.



3. Be sure to join their hands. Make the figures look like they are moving to the music.

4. *Where* is the dance happening? Show things in your picture what will tell

us if it is indoors or outdoors. Maybe you can show where the music is coming from.



Kelsey Age 6

**CLEAN UP:** Do you have extra paper? Are you going to make another picture right now? If the answer is, "No," put the paper away. Put the crayons back, too.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** How many people did you draw in your picture? How do we know they are doing a circle dance? What makes it look as though they are going 'round and 'round? Did you forget to draw anything important?

**MORE IDEAS:** What else could you show a group of children doing. . .riding on some playground equipment? Having fun at the beach around a campfire? Having a birthday party? Choose one of these ideas or one of your own and make another picture with crayons or felt pens.

**CONNECTIONS:** Sing some songs you could dance to. Use some rhythm instruments to tap a beat for dancing feet or play a dancing tune on a piano.