Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

Age group: 2 - 8
English level: Zero to low intermediate
Resources: (Body part flashcards, lyrics, music player)
Preparation time: Lunch break, coffee break, or none.
Skills used: Choral speaking, vocabulary, print awareness.
Lesson objective: Students will learn the song, and be able to name some body parts.

Pre-lesson preparation
Optional:
Print body part flashcards.
Print song lyrics.
Prepare musical accompaniment for the song. (Search youtube for suitable versions)
Set out coloring pencils, scissors, glue and vocabulary key.

Lesson plan

Zero English/very young students
Gather the students and sing the song. Repeat several times and encourage them to join in with the actions and words. After several sessions, when students are familiar with the song, they can take it in turns to be the ‘song leader’. When students know the song well, give out the body part flashcards. Students should hold up their flashcard when the name of their body part is sung.

Limited English/young students
Learn the song and sing with flashcards, as above. Sing the song backwards ‘toes, knees, shoulders, head’ while showing the flashcards. Repeat several times with the cards in different orders. Students can then take turns to hold up the flashcards (and say the body part) in the order of their choosing. The other students should do the action for the body part.

Some English/older students with some reading/writing ability
Learn the song and play the body part game, as above. Use a set of photocopied flash cards to demonstrate choosing an order for your version of the song. Glue the cards onto the page. Finish your song sheet by labeling the pictures as you expect your students to do - either by writing the lyrics, copying the lyrics, or cutting and pasting the lyrics, depending on the students’ ability. Demonstrate singing from your song sheet, and encourage students to join in. Ensure students have all the materials they need to make their own song sheets. As they work, take every opportunity to use the body part vocabulary from the song. If students are confident, they can sing their finished version to the class. If they are shy, you can sing their versions for them, encouraging all students to join in with you.
Dear Families,
Today we learned the song ‘head, shoulders, knees and toes’.
You can listen to the song here:

   Head, Shoulders Knees and Toes
   Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes
   Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes,
   And ears and eyes and mouth and nose,
   Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes!

It's a fun song, we hope you can sing it at home too!

Best wishes,