

Individual Drill Movements

PO.1, EO.1-6

Introduction

Introduce the purpose of drill as well as the people involved in conducting it. Give a brief overview of the progression of drill throughout each guidebook, and then explain the portion they will learn as recruits.

Direct Instruction

I Do, We Do, You Do

First, explain which movement you're going to teach each recruit. Next, explain the steps of the movement while students watch it being performed either using the instructional videos or a Senior or Advanced Young Marine to demonstrate. After you've explained the movement, show the video again or have the Young Marine demonstrate once more. Then, explain the steps to the movement one at a time as the Young Marine Recruits perform it. Go through the steps two to three times until it appears as if they all understand. Finally, have them practice the movement to commands.

Perform these steps for two to three movements before letting the recruits practice with a partner. Teaching all of the drill movements before letting the recruits practice can easily overwhelm them and cause them to forget earlier movements from the lesson. Be sure to break up direct instruction with time for partner or small group practice. A good rule of thumb is that children can focus for as many minutes as they are age in years. For example, an eight-year-old can focus on a single activity for about eight minutes. However, the more engaged the child is in the lesson, the longer they can focus, so this time may vary by several minutes.

Independent/Group Practice

Partner Drill Cards

Give teams of recruits a drill card to use for practice. Instruct them to take turns giving commands and performing the movement until each recruit has had a turn to give the commands for each of the movements they've learned. As they are practicing, walk around the room to monitor and give feedback, correcting when necessary but also praising when recruits perform positively.

Knock Out Game

Once you've taught all of the movements and given recruits time to practice, bring them back together for a game of Knock Out. Have a recruit Instructor or one of the Young Marines call out drill movements at random. recruits are to perform the movement in a group. If a recruit makes a mistake, they are "knocked out." Play until there is only one, or a few depending on size and proficiency of the recruit class, left standing.

Alternative game: Simon Says

Evaluation

Once you feel your recruits are ready, conduct a drill inspection or have a drill competition. For this portion of the lesson, you will need to utilize as many Adult Volunteers and Senior Young Marines as you have available during Recruit Training in order to assess each Young Marine Recruit.

Assign each person who will be conducting the evaluation two to three Young Marines to score and give each of them a drill card to make notes on that they will give to the recruits. As you or another Recruit Instructor calls each movement, instruct the evaluators to make notes about how each recruit performs the movement. At the conclusion of the inspection/competition, give the drill cards back to the recruits so that they can reflect on their progress.

Reflection

Direct students to reflect on their progress, making note of what they did well and what areas they need to work on most.

At this point, it is also good for instructors to reflect on the recruits' progress as well. If less than 80% of recruits are struggling with one or more of the movements, it is a good idea to arrange some reteaching activities.

Reteaching options:

- Watch the videos again as a whole group and practice the movement again until recruits understand the movement and process for completing it. This option is best if large amounts of your recruit class are struggling with the same movements.
- Create pairs or teams of recruits who are doing well with drill and those who need more help for peer tutoring. The drill cards from the inspection will be useful here. This option is best if only a few of your recruits are struggling or if your recruits are all struggling with different movements.

It is important to build time in for reteaching even if it isn't used.