Community Skiing

The ‘skis’ are made from 8 or 10 foot 2X4’s with eyehooks screwed into the sides so strings can be attached and hinges attached to one end of the ski so it can be connected to another ski. (see picture below)

These materials can be purchased at a local hardware store for about $8 per pair.

Students have to stand on the skis behind each other, with two students holding on to the strings. In order for the group to move all members must lift the same foot at the same time in order for that ski to move.

Once students have mastered this skill in small groups (4 to 5 students) the skies can be attached to each other. I use hinges to attach the 2X4’s together. These can be easily attached by students using screws or lag bolts into predrilled holes.

Then students can all climb on the new and improved skis and work together in larger groups. If I have a 16-20 students, I like to use four sets of skis. First they make double length skis and then all 20 students at once on quadruple length skis. For groups up to 15 students I have them join three of the skis together as shown below.

I’ve used this activity in as little as 10 minutes with the skis all assembled and the students climbing on in small groups, and for as long as an hour where students start the activity with a scavenger hunt just to find the materials and put together their own skis.

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