

**Helpful Hints from Gene Reneau**  
**From**  
**The Hollis Adams Dancers (Indiana)**

If someone is involved or is considering getting involved in teaching the handicapped to Square Dance, there are five areas that need to be considered: Patience, Commitment, Dedication, Respect and Teaching.

Patience with the persons in attendance is vitally important as they function at a different level than we do and will not always respond as one might expect. "LET THEM WIN EVERY TIME." Give them lots and lots of praise.

Commitment: Be committed to do the best job you possibly can. Proper Preparation will Prevent Poor Performance.

Dedication: Be 100% dedicated to provide them with the best program possible.

Respect: Respect them for the person that they are. They are just marching to a different drummer than you and I do.

Teaching: Take the time to break each call down to its simplest components. Show them how to execute the call, no matter how many times it takes, and then let them dance.

A very useful tool for teaching a call that has two people turning. (Left Allemande, Courtesy Turn, Ladies Chain and Right and Left Thru, etc.), is to tell them there is a flag pole between them and to go around it. For Grand Square use a building as a reference.

Here are the dances that the group I am with enjoy: Circle Left/Right, Forward & Back, Right & Left Stars, Promenades, Elbow Swings, Left Allemande & Right & Left Grand, Courtesy Turn & (2) Ladies Chain, ½ of a Grand Square, Grapevine Twist, Chicken Dance, Hokey Pokey, Bunny Hop, Limbo, Freight Train, Tunnel of Love Contra, & Virginia Reel (W/O the reel). Please realize that I do not do all of these dances each time we meet, but they are all capable of doing all of them.

Assistance with the dances is always available from parents or Group Home leaders and they usually assist me when I teach. This group has square dance apparel that they wear when doing a demonstration and at dances if they so desire, but we do not enforce that rule that they wear them at dances. Just recently, a very large square dance club in the Indianapolis area, Nick Hartley's Brunch Bunch, donated square dance apparel to the group for which we are very grateful.

The group that I teach and call for is, The Hollis Adams Dancers. Indianapolis, IN. They meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday nights 7:00-8:30, September through June.

For music I use singing call records as they seem to adapt to the music better than with patter records.