



SONGS FOR KIDS

Contact us at
www.snackmusic.com.au

CHOOSING SONGS

- **What is the purpose of the song?**
 - ☺ *Is it FUN?*
Songs need to be catchy, fun and enjoyable to sing.
Children seem to enjoy songs more if there are actions to go with the songs.
You can choose nonsense songs as well as those that have a God message.
 - ☺ *What does the song SAY?*
Does the song talk about a particular story or message?
Does this fit in with your program and what you want the children to believe?
Be careful not to make the children sing anything they can't own e.g. can a child sing "Thank you for saving me" if they haven't been saved yet?
- **Who is your audience?**
 - ☺ *Different age groups enjoy different sorts of songs.*
Young children can enjoy simple repetitive lyrics and actions.
Older children can enjoy complicated or crazy lyrics or move, or a cool tag.
 - ☺ *Find out what style of music the children enjoy and find something that fits that style.*
- **Will the children be able to sing it?**
 - ☺ If songs have *too many words* the children may not be able to sing them, especially if they are only going to sing the songs a few times.
 - ☺ *Does the melody go too high or low* – is it out of their singable range.
- **Does the song have actions?**
 - ☺ YES! – Make sure you learn them or adapt them for the group you are working with.
 - ☺ NO - make some up or have the children help you create actions for a song.
- **Is it too complicated or hard?**
 - ☺ If you are having trouble playing / performing a song try something a lot simpler.
Often the simplest songs are the easy ones!!!

PUTTING YOUR SONG SET TOGETHER

- **Things to consider**
 - ☺ How fast is the song (tempo) – is it too fast to sing to?
 - ☺ What different styles of songs will you include (e.g. 2 fast songs and 1 slow song)?
 - ☺ What purpose do the songs have in your program (fun / warm up / message based)?
- **How do you introduce a new song?**

There is no prescribed way to introduce a song but you might want to:

 - ☺ Make sure the people up front KNOW THE ACTIONS so everyone can follow along.
 - ☺ Read through the words of the song with the children first.
 - ☺ Show them how the actions go before putting them to music.
 - ☺ Teach a verse or a chorus at a time.
 - ☺ Make sure all the leaders know the actions and join in – this encourages everyone to join in as well.

PERFORMING SONGS

- **Be PREPARED**

- ☺ *Know the song*

- Make sure you know all parts of the song before you teach / perform it.

- Try and get to a point where you don't need words and music in front of you. This will free you up to move around and get involved with the performance.

- ☺ *Know the song's form (does it go verse, chorus, bridge, chorus or something else?)*

- This is just as important as knowing the words. 'A wise man once said **"If you know where you're going it is a whole lot easier to lead others there!"**

- ☺ *Know the actions*

- If you know the actions well the children will be less confused and everyone will enjoy it.

- Practise doing the actions at home in a mirror. Don't just hope it will be 'alright on the night'.

- ☺ *Learn from others*

- Don't be afraid to learn from others. Chances are they've learnt from others themselves.

- Watch things like facial features, actions, stage presence, crowd participation and their body language in general.

- **Tune People In**

- ☺ Present songs in a way that encourages participation. This begins with *your* participation and enthusiasm.

- ☺ Teach a few of the actions (or another fun element to the song) before you begin the song.

- ☺ Talk through the words of the chorus before you launch into singing.

- **Be Flexible**

- ☺ *Know when to stop* - Don't be discouraged if something isn't working, or if people are losing concentration. Just move on to the next thing.

- ☺ If a song was well received, come back to it at the end of the session. This way you're guaranteed to finish on a high point.

- ☺ Don't push it. Finish with everyone wanting more.

- ☺ Give kids choice about what songs they do. This gives them involvement and ownership.

- **Mistakes**

- ☺ Mistakes happen and usually go unnoticed. Unless you need to go back and correct yourself (if something may be interpreted wrongly), just keep going and don't let it bother you.

- ☺ Don't make it obvious you have made a mistake – for example, don't start giggling or pulling faces as it draws attention away from the song and onto you.

- ☺ Get to know everyone that's on your music team, and learn how they work. This will help you recover when everything's falling apart.

- **Using a Band or a CD**

- ☺ Don't feel restricted by your situation. There are creative ways of doing music without musicians.

- ☺ Live musicians can work well if you have competent musicians. It allows energy, gives a great level of energy and is a great visual for the children.

- ☺ Using CDs work really well to provide a sound that you may not be able to get with just a few musicians. It also has a strong vocal line so it can support those leading the singing.

- **Crowd Participation**

- ☺ You are there for the audience so make sure they feel a part of it. Get children to come on stage to perform and be part of the program.

- **You don't have to be a great singer to lead a song well**

- ☺ If you know the song, the actions and are enthusiastic about what you're doing, the children will enjoy themselves because they can see you enjoying yourself.

- ☺ Remember to be confident and confidence comes from knowing the song.

- **Be ENTHUSIASTIC!**

- ☺ Let the children see you having fun through your facial expressions and over exaggerated actions. If they see you having **THEY WILL HAVE FUN!!!**

- **Get Creative and HAVE FUN!**

- ☺ These aren't the only ways to lead songs with kids. Find new and exciting ways and share them with us and others.