

Nursery Music Time Ideas by Barbara Gill

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Providing a ritual and routine for nursery singing time is so important for the young children. Begin and end the music session in the same way each week. In between, use a mystery bag with objects associated with each song. Set a basket or box (covered with a blanket) behind you with the objects needed for each child to participate in the specific song.

1. Set up

- a. Chairs or mats in a semi-circle
- b. Mystery bag
- c. Basket or box with supplies
- d. Blanket

2. Method

- a. Have stable objects (5 or so) in the mystery bag to build familiarity with Primary songs. Add new objects for seasonal/occasion songs or varied repetition.
- b. Begin each session with a “Hello” song, calling each child by name and doing an action such as waving, clapping, rolling, swishing, patting, jumping, stomping, tip-toeing
 - i. Here we are with Tanner a waving, a waving. Here we are with Tanner a waving today.
- c. End with a “Goodbye” song or let each child ring the “goodbye” bell
 - i. Show “my turn, your turn” with arms pointing toward you or the children so they can echo or wave to you.
 - ii. Sing “Hello, Hello” (CS 260) with new words: “Goodbye (Goodbye), Goodbye (Goodbye). Our time is done today. Goodbye (Goodbye), Goodbye (Goodbye) I’m glad you came today. To share with us our Primary day and be our

friend in a very special way. Goodbye (Goodbye), Goodbye (Goodbye). Our time is done today.”

- d. Let each child pull an object from the bag associated with a song.
 - i. Let each child feel the rock (smooth, rough, heavy, light) then sing the song with each child using an object or action
 - ii. Example: rock = The Wise Man and the Foolish Man
- e. Simply sing and use the objects or actions.
- f. Repeat the song 2 to 3 times for familiarity and enjoyment.
- g. Use a song to cue children it is time to put the objects away.
 - i. Using the tune “Rain is Falling All Around,” sing the words “Time to put our stars away, time to put our stars away. Time to put our stars away. We’ll play with stars another day.”
 - ii. Children get used to the routine of putting the objects away and anticipate using new objects for the next song.

3. Points to consider

- a. Whether doing an action or using a visual/object nursery children are given the opportunity to participate even if they don’t feel comfortable singing in front of you. They will often break into song at home or start to sing along in the music session when they feel safe.
- b. Pitch matching
 - i. When singing together, it is easier for children to pitch match when a simple melody is sung. A cappella is best.
 - ii. Adults usually sing too low for children. Notice whether you are pitching the song high enough for them to sing along with you.
- c. Visuals
 - i. A visual with a face should have a back. Double-sided visuals help children to see what you see. Ex: When putting

a picture of the temple or star on a stick, make two visuals and put the stick in between.

- ii. When possible, objects should all be the same to avoid the children saying, "I want that one" or "I want that color."

Example: smiley faces can be all the same colored cardstock. Same color shakers/eggs.

- iii. Laminate whenever possible.

d. Clothing

- i. You are moving with the children or bending and leaning toward them. Make sure your clothing is modest.