

Singing Time Planning Worksheet- Introducing a new song

SONG: _____ (Pg. _____)

First, Know the Song:

1. Become familiar with the words & melody.
2. What is the **message** that the words convey?
3. Are there any **scripture references** you can use while you prepare or teach the song?
4. What are the **keywords** and **words that rhyme**?
5. What are the **new words** the children may not understand or may not know how to pronounce?
6. Are there any **melody or rhythm patterns**, or **dynamic markings** that will make the song easier to learn?
7. Practice the song over and over until you know it well.

Then, Prepare a Lesson Plan:

1. **Attention Getter** (How can I capture the children's attention? For example, an object, picture, scripture, experience, or simply a whisper.)
2. **What questions can I ask that will encourage the children to *listen to the song*?** (Ask **questions** that help the children understand the gospel message—for example, What? Where? Who? When? Why?—and state the questions in such a way that children can discover the answer as you sing the song.) Help them listen for the special words, melodies, and rhythm patterns that you listed above.
3. **How can I encourage the children to *sing the song*?** (Invite the children to sing the phrases that answer the questions. Vary the tempo and the volume to add meaning. Ask the children to listen to their singing without accompaniment. Expect the children to sit tall and to watch you carefully.) Use any **visual aids** (church-approved, of course) and **actions** to help them remember the words.
4. **What testimony can I leave with the children that will strengthen them?** (Bear your personal testimony, or read testimonies recorded in the scriptures.) Is there a personal experience I could relate that would express my feelings or bear testimony of the song's message?

How to Teach a Song to Children

From the Children's Songbook and Lds.org

Children learn to sing a song by *hearing it sung many times*. Begin teaching a song by *singing it to the children*. Involve the children by *asking questions about the song that challenge their thinking*. A leader should keep two steps in mind when teaching a song to children:

1. **Know the song.** Before you can teach a song effectively, you must know the song yourself. You can *become familiar with the words and melody* by playing the song on the piano, listening to a tape recording, or finding someone to sing or play it for you. Study the song and *decide what message the words convey*. Ask yourself *how you might use any scripture references at the end of the song in your preparation or in teaching the song*. Look for *key words and words that rhyme, as well as for words that the children may not understand or may not know how to pronounce*. Notice *melody or rhythm patterns* that will make the song easier to learn. *Practice the song over and over until you know it well.*
2. **Make a plan.** Ask yourself:
 - a. How can I capture the children's attention? (Perhaps with an object, a picture, a scripture, an experience, or simply a whisper.)
 - b. What questions can I ask that will encourage the children to listen to the song? (Ask questions that help the children understand the gospel message—for example, What? Where? Who? When? Why?—and state the questions in such a way that children can discover the answer as you sing the song.)
 - c. How can I encourage the children to sing the song? (Invite the children to sing the phrases that answer the questions. Vary the tempo and the volume to add meaning. Ask the children to listen to their singing without accompaniment. Expect the children to sit tall and to watch you carefully.)
 - d. What testimony can I leave with the children that will strengthen them? (Bear your personal testimony, or read testimonies recorded in the scriptures.)

How to Add Variety to Singing

You may teach any of the songs in this book as they are printed, omitting any optional parts or combinations of parts. However, to add variety, you may:

1. Use alternate words that can make the songs more appropriate for specific occasions. (See "Rain Is Falling All Around," p. 241.)
2. Teach songs with suggested actions, or have the children help you improvise actions where indicated. Young children who have not yet found their singing voices may participate through movement. (See "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," p. 275.)
3. Assign small groups to sing different sections or verses.
4. Use songs that have two parts to sing together or optional parts such as descants, ostinato's, and obligato's. These additional elements challenge the children and allow them to experience harmony. (See "I Am a Child of God," p. 2.)
5. Arrange a medley of two or more songs that have similar messages or that tell one story. Interludes between songs could be created from the suggested introductions.
6. For special occasions, have a child sing a solo, or ask a group of children to sing as a chorus.
7. Have the children hum or sing several songs as prelude music.