



How to Choose Suitable Songs for Children

Teachers can consider the following when selecting suitable songs for children:

- Choose songs that are **meaningful to the children**.

When the subject matter of the song is within children's experiences, they can better remember the lyrics and be engaged with the song. Likewise, it helps when children can pronounce the words of the song.

- Look for songs that have **repeated phrases or patterns and short lines**.

Children thrive on repetition and recognising a recurring pattern, i.e., whether rhythmic, melodic or words. Repeated patterns provide security and help children remember a song. Also, choose songs that have short phrases, rather than long, meandering lines that are difficult to remember.

- Select songs that encourage children to **move rhythmically**.

Children remember songs which have accompanying actions, often mirrored in the words. Such songs offer a range of ways to experience elements of music like beat and/or rhythm while singing.

- Consider the **most comfortable or appropriate tempo for singing** (i.e., around 60 to 70 beats per minute).

Singing at a comfortable tempo allows for the melody, rhythm and words to make sense. Singing songs that are too fast or too slow can pose problems for children to remember the melody and the words, or both.

- Find songs with **ranges that fall between middle C (Do) and A (La)** as these are generally appropriate and easier for children to sing.

