



Children's Songs

Three top tips

1. The song must be good

Choose songs that you are going to use wisely. The song must be something that the children can relate to. Therefore, it is appropriate to use songs that sound like nursery rhymes with younger children. Older children require songs that sound like they are aimed at their age-range. You can use a band if you have reasonable musicians. If not, singing along with CDs/MP3s means that you can sing along with fantastic backing tracks. If it is a song that you listen to twice and cannot sing back some of the melody after 10 minutes, then it probably is not the ideal song to use.

2. Take time to teach

Don't assume that the children will all know and pick up the song quickly. Take time to teach and allow children to sing the song back to you/ repeat the actions along with you. Actions must relate in some way to the words, otherwise you are basically flapping your arms about. If you are going to use Sign Language, tell everyone. Use sign language that relates to country you are in. Using British Sign Language in Ecuador may well mean very little.

3. Join in enthusiastically

Don't assume that the children will all know and pick up the song quickly. Take time to teach and allow children to sing the song back to you/ repeat the actions along with you. Actions must relate in some way to the words, otherwise you are basically flapping your arms about. If you are going to use Sign Language, tell everyone. Use sign language that relates to country you are in. Using British Sign Language in Ecuador may well mean very little.

Remember!

Do not censor the bible. If you are singing a memory verse song, you need to change the tune rather than change the bible.

Words need to be clearly heard and clearly visible.

You can change lyrics that are not appropriate/ biblical. Chances are the writer of the song will not be there.

Relate the songs to the theme.

Songs should be worship, or they should teach. If they do neither of these things, they are aerobics.



Praying with children

Three top tips

1. Let people know what is expected

If you are going to bring people up to the front, or if you are going to have a response, let everyone know beforehand what they are being brought up for. It is wrong to bring people up under false pretences. I usually tell people what we are going to pray before-hand, so that there are not any surprises.

2. Use language that everyone understands

Most of us can speak reasonably fluent Christian-ese. Having said that, not everybody can. Therefore use language that everyone in the room understands. Just because something is simple does not mean that it is not profound.

3. Write out prayers

Knowing what you are going to say and how you are going to say it means that prayers can be concise and well thought out. You can relate your prayers to the talk and be careful of your language as you do this.