



SING  
*for*  
PLEASURE

# SfP Pointers

## #6: Singing in the Classroom

Whether it's singing the register or learning times tables, singing is a great way to support learning in the classroom. There has been plenty of research carried out over recent years stating that singing helps develop language skills, strengthens bonds and improves memory. And that's just the tip of the iceberg!

You don't necessarily need to set aside a given amount of time to sing; simply incorporate it into your everyday classroom life. When I was teaching, I used to love singing the register each morning. I sang 'hello' (using just two 'nee naw' notes) to a child and they sang back but in a different language. I would also break up my long literacy lesson with a singing game that got children moving, thinking on the spot and having fun!

SfP's Junior Song Book Pack is my 'bible' when it comes to classroom singing with really fun, accessible songs that don't rely on a piano or backing track to make them work. Below are some of my favourite songs that I know children really enjoy singing.

Song	Book	Curriculum link
Boom chicka boom	Boom chicka boom	A great non-singing warm up to focus children's attention. Once children are familiar with the chant, let them lead it and get creative with different types of voices.
Lord Longleat	Kumala vista	Sung to the tune of Old MacDonald, this is a great literacy song. Explore alliteration with each new verse, eg. 'zany zebras;', 'sleepy sloths', etc...
Columbus	Tongo	A round, telling the story of Christopher Columbus.
Popocatapetl	Popocatapetl	A silly round about the volcano in Mexico.
Lemonade game	Tall straw hat	Children choose which town/city they come from and their trade, eg. Birmingham, chicken tikka.
Lost in space	Lost in space	A fabulous round for older children learning about space. To make it simpler, sing it as a layering song rather than a round (ie. split the class into 4 groups with each group singing just one line, over and over).
Vive l'amour	I'm gonna sing	Once children are familiar with this song (simplify it by singing it in unison and a little lower than written), use it in a literacy lesson to write new verses with rhyming patterns, eg. 'the animals went in three by three... the possum, the monkey and chimpanzee'!

Dem bones	Ghosts	A well-known, traditional song that teaches different parts of the body. Expand it to include even more parts of the body.
Bear hunt	Bear hunt	A sung version of the famous story. Great for a KS1 literacy lesson.
I walked to the top of the hill	Bear hunt	Introduces the tonic solfa notes (do, re, mi, etc...).
Drop of Nelson's blood	Dreamtime	Use in literacy to write your own verses of things that you can eat/drink/do that 'wouldn't do us any harm', eg. 'Oh a bar of Cadbury's chocolate'.
	Bells are ringing	A great little book of short Christmas songs and rounds.
Just like me	Apple tree	Brilliant warm up and focussing song for EYS. Invite children to choose their own actions for new verses.
	Ziggy da dumba	A book of Polish singing games; great for EFL use and a favourite with KS2 children. All the songs have the original Polish words, phonetic lyrics and an English version.

Sometimes the best teaching and learning is done by stealth and often children don't realise just how much they've achieved. They've just been having fun, singing with their teacher!

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