

20 Songs for Children from Africa and the Americas

Here are some songs for teachers and children to enjoy together at different times of the day. It might be that you need a song to raise energy levels, or one to make children concentrate or think, or perhaps some music to calm everyone and restore order. Of course any one song can be enjoyed in different ways; you are only limited by your imagination or that of your children. Keep the singing natural and relaxed; try not to worry about tuning everyone together or indeed the quality of your own voice. Importantly, the songs all have characteristic rhythmic elements that you should try to help the children interpret through body and voice. These are not songs for 'choirs' in the first instance; but for groups of young people who understand how much pleasure can be gained from singing and being playful with music. All of the songs can be sung without accompaniment, but some rhythmic guitar chords will help give the Latin American songs a sense of style.

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