

KS1 Choir Session 3

Warm-up

- ✓ Do the 1-8 shake out: 8 shakes of the RH, LH, R leg L leg, then 4, 2, and 1 shakes, shouting "Hey!" at the end. Act as a mirror for the children.
- ✓ Use the tongue twister: '**Busy brown bees are buzzing in the bluebells**'. Aim for clear enunciation.
- ✓ Make up short phrases for the choir to each, using the words: 'Zum, Zum, Zummy Zum Zum', 'Tick-a-tick' etc.
- ✓ Contrast this with some long 'oo' and 'ah' sounds, following the pattern you draw in the air with the pitch of the voices,
- ✓ Ask the children to pretend to blow gently towards a candle, as if trying to make the flame flicker very slightly. Draw their attention to the shape their mouth makes when they do this – a rounded 'button oo'.
- ✓ Ask the children to breathe in through an open mouth to 3 counts, and then spin the breath out on the exhalation while counting "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6" (stressing 1 a little) repeatedly until they run out of breath.

Warm-up Song

Recap – The Penguin Song (Singing Sherlock Book 1, p11)

- ✓ Setting the pulse with a woodblock, ask the children to tap their legs, walking in the spot.
- ✓ Experiment with different tempi, inviting different children to set the pulse.
- ✓ Sing the song all through, making sure that everyone is singing confidently and that they are aware of the other performers.

Ask the children to put their shoulders up to their ears and down several times, then to 'sit tall' with relaxed shoulders.

Main Body of the Session

Recap – Telephone Song (Sheet)

- ✓ Ask the children to think of a friend's name but not to say who it is!

- ✓ Recap the song from Session 1, by singing the call (e.g. St Mary's Choir) and encourage the children to sing the response ("I think I hear my name") and to add the name they thought of.
- ✓ Ask the children to choose a different name, but this time, it must be someone *in* the room.
- ✓ Ask them to sing your name to start off the song together, then choose the next child who will put in the name they have thought of, and sing the song several times.

New - Dr Knickerbocker (Singing Sherlock Book 1, p9)

- ✓ Say: "Now, let's get the rhythm of the hands" (clap, clap) and ask the children to copy.
- ✓ Do the same for "Yes, we've got the rhythm of the hands" (clap, clap).
- ✓ Do both lines one after the other and then repeat the process for "the rhythm of the No 9".
- ✓ Sing the whole of Verse 1 twice, line by line, with actions, for the children to copy.

New - Holly the Hedgehog (Singing Sherlock Book 1, p59)

- ✓ Listen to the chorus with the performance track, stopping at the end of "that have fur."
- ✓ Teach the chorus two bars at a time, with the children echoing. Then try four bars and finally all of the chorus, building up their memory, but making sure that it is accurate.
- ✓ Make sure that initial consonants are clearly enunciated, especially in "Holly" & "Hedgehog".
- ✓ Play the performance track for the whole song, joining in with the chorus each time.
- ✓ At the end, see if they can remember any of the animals Holly met and what they said to her.

Recap - Teddy Bear Rock 'n' Roll (Singing Sherlock Book 1, p17)

- ✓ Recap verse 1 and see if they can make their faces match the mood of the words.
- ✓ Try singing it with the performance track, letting the music run on so that you can demonstrate the actions for the chorus for next week.

To Finish

Recap - Come to the Pet Shop (Singing Sherlock Book 1, p28)

- ✓ Sing the first verse though together, making sure that they are singing smoothly and quietly.
- ✓ Decide on four verses - either the ones in the book, or your own choice.
- ✓ Divide the group into two and let each half take turns to be the leader, using the backing track.
- ✓ Discuss with the children how it went and what they could do to improve it and try once again. If you have appropriate facilities, you could record them and play it back.

Evaluation & notes for next session

It is useful to jot down a few quick notes at the end of each session to help to direct the focus of the work in the next session, e.g.

Dr Knickerbocker - Maybe start with this as the warm-up song next time.

Pet Shop - Invite individual or pairs of children to lead the song.

Holly the Hedgehog - Recap the chorus. Can they recall which animals Holly met? Teach verse 1.

Teddy Bear Rock 'n' Roll - Teach the chorus (without actions at first), making sure they are singing accurately and confidently. The actions can also work well as a warm-up with thinking voices!