

How Do I Organize the Songs?



Plan at least a month in advance. Examples of song lists from 2016 are online at <http://www.sandpointstakecommunications.com/2016-monthly-song-lists.html>. Use that format or create your own to include the songs you plan to use each month. Share your plan with the pianist. This monthly framework of songs is flexible so the Spirit can guide which songs to use each week.

PRELUDE: Music is amazing. Children and adults know music is the signal to pay attention and be reverent. This is a good opportunity to hum or quietly sing while classes are gathering.

Sharing Time Songs:

REVERENCE: In addition to bringing the Spirit and preparing the children for the opening prayer, the reverence song is an opportunity to practice a new song learned that month.



BIRTHDAY: It's good to have a couple of birthday songs to choose from each month. Some weeks there is a birthday, and sometimes there is not. Sometimes it's a visitor or a teacher with a birthday, or perhaps a child that wasn't on the most current birthday list.

VISITORS: Always be prepared for visitors. It's nice to mix it up, and not just sing the "Hello" song over and over. You might introduce "We Welcome You", just the chorus, during singing time, or you'll be singing alone that first time. "Here We Are Together" is another classic.

SHARING TIME PRESENTATION: Be prepared to support the Primary Presidency during their Sharing Time presentation with weekly songs suggested in the Outline for Sharing Time (OST). These songs also make good practice songs as they go along with the monthly theme.

Singing Time Songs:

WIGGLE: Sometimes the children need a song with movement right after Sharing Time, and sometimes they need it after practicing a new song. If there has been plenty of movement during Sharing Time, sing a song that reinforces the message and testify. Hold the wiggle song for when it is needed. Keep in mind that the Sunbeams need songs with lots of movement and actions.

THEME: This is the main song of the month from the Outline for Sharing Time (OST). It should be sung at least once every week, even if it is a familiar song. This is the most important song to focus on teaching the doctrine. If it is new to the children, introduce a single verse each week. Singing the new verse the next week as the reverence song will help you know how well the children remember it.

PRACTICE: Usually you will sing several songs during music time, but it's hard to know which ones you'll need more practice on or which will be an opportunity for testimony.

It's also wise to prepare early to support the Sharing Time presentation with songs suggested in the Sharing Time Outline. Sometimes the presidency member will let you know in advance, but often they don't. These songs reinforce the gospel message being taught during Sharing Time.