

The HANDBOOK at LDS.org

From lds.org, click **Serve and Teach**. Select **Primary**. On the left sidebar, choose **Leader Resources**. In the right column, click on the picture of Handbook 2, or scroll down and choose from the Primary sections. I chose the sections below as the most needed for a new music leader. The ... means there is more in the full reference.

11.2.4

Ward Primary Music Leader(s) and Pianist(s)

Under the direction of the Primary presidency, Primary music leaders and pianists have the following responsibilities:

They plan, teach, and direct the music for sharing time, including songs that will be part of the children's sacrament meeting presentation.

They help with music for the nursery class and other Primary classes as requested.

They may organize and direct a children's choir as requested.

Members of the Primary presidency help the ward Primary music leaders and pianists understand how music contributes to Primary. The melodies, words, and messages of Primary songs can teach children the doctrines of the gospel and stay in their hearts throughout their lives.

Music in Primary should invite reverence, teach the gospel, and help children feel the influence of the Holy Ghost and the joy that comes through singing. While the children sing some songs, music leaders give them opportunities to move physically and stretch appropriately.

The *Children's Songbook* and the current sharing time outline are the basic resources for music in Primary. Hymns from the hymnbook and songs from the *Friend* and *Liahona* are also appropriate. Occasionally children may sing patriotic or holiday songs that are suitable for Sunday and for the children's ages. The use of any other music in Primary must be approved by the bishopric.

For information about teaching music to children, see the *Children's Songbook*, pages 300–304. See also [chapter 14](#) in this handbook, the current outline for sharing time, and “Music Callings and Resources” in the Serving in the Church section of LDS.org.

11.1 Theme and Purposes of Primary

... “All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children” (3 Nephi 22:13). The purposes of Primary are to help children:

1. Feel Heavenly Father's love for them.
2. Learn and understand the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Feel and recognize the influence of the Holy Ghost.
4. Prepare to make and keep sacred covenants.

11.4.2 Sharing Time

...This time normally includes the following elements:

1. Prelude music, a reverent song or hymn that the children know...
2. One or more of the following: a scripture passage... one or two activity songs, and children's talks...
3. Gospel instruction by the Primary presidency...
4. Singing time conducted by a music leader. This portion lasts about 20 minutes (see the current outline for sharing time)...

11.5.4

Children's Sacrament Meeting Presentation

The annual children's sacrament meeting presentation gives children an opportunity to share what they have learned in Primary. It is normally presented during the fourth quarter of the year.

The Primary presidency and music leader(s) prepare the presentation under the direction of the bishopric. They follow the guidelines in the current outline for sharing time, adapting it as needed to fit the circumstances of the children.

... All Primary children ages 3 through 11 sing songs they have learned in sharing time. Children may also participate by reading or reciting scripture passages, giving talks, singing in small groups, and sharing their testimonies. An adult leader in Primary may also share a brief message.

In keeping with the sacredness of sacrament meeting, the presentation should not include visuals, costumes, or media presentations.

14.7 Music Training

...The Conducting Course Kit and the Keyboard Course Kit provide instruction in basic music skills...



From [lds.org](https://www.lds.org), click **Serve and Teach**. Select **Primary**, then select **Music**. Choose **Music Resources**. then **How to Conduct a Hymn**.

For more details, choose **Serve and Teach**. Select **All Callings**. Click on **Music Callings**, then choose **Church Music Website**.

11.8.5

Portrayals of Deity in Role-Playing Activities

... God the Father and the Holy Ghost are not to be portrayed in any way. The Savior should not be portrayed by children except in a nativity scene...see 13.6.13...additional guidelines

11.8.4

Encouraging Reverence

Reverence is an expression of love and respect for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Primary leaders and teachers help children understand what reverence is and how to act reverently. They encourage reverence by personal example. They also encourage reverence by coming to church prepared to teach from the scriptures and to use visuals and learning activities that invite the influence of the Holy Ghost.

14.1 Purpose of Music in the Church

... "Inspirational music is an essential part of our church meetings. The hymns invite the Spirit of the Lord, create a feeling of reverence, unify us as members, and provide a way for us to offer praises to the Lord...

11.4.1 Schedule

The following charts show three options for scheduling Sunday Primary...