Singing with Mr. Bear

Throughout our lessons, we model and reinforce in-tune singing, usually staying within the keys of C or D for young voices. Typically, the only reason a student sings out of tune is because we allow him or her to do so! At the beginning of the year, we introduce Mr. Bear, a teddy-bear hand puppet. Students echo motives on "loo" in the following sequence: sol-mi, sol-sol-mi, sol-la-sol, sol-la-sol-mi. The puppet does a little dance when the students sing in tune.

Melody: Differentiate between speaking and singing voices

Baa, Baa, Black Sheep



Perform the song for your students, alternating between a singing voice and a speaking voice as indicated. Have the students raise their hands when they hear the singing.

I Like Coffee

Traditional Text Arr. Hiller/Dupont





- 1. Arrange the *sol* and *mi* circles (available on the CD) to create a pitch ladder, as seen in *Figure 1*.
- 2. Teach the song using hand signs and then pointing to the pitches on the pitch ladder (*sol* and *mi*).
- 3. Display the Steady Beat Visual, and with the students, notate first the rhythm (stems only) and then the pitches (S = sol, M = mi).
- 4. For the B section, invite one student leader to perform the beat, using one body percussion movement (e.g., snap, clap, pat, or stamp) for the other students to perform simultaneously. Continue with new leaders.

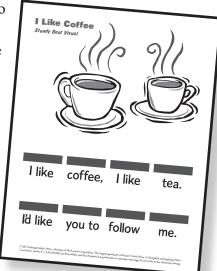


Figure 1

Melody: Sing, play, and identify sol, la, and mi

Bounce High

Traditional



- 1. Sing the song using body levels to outline the melody; place hands on waist for the low note (mi), on shoulders for the middle note (sol), and on head for the high note (la).
- 2. Teach the following movements:

Formation: Students in pairs.

Measure 1: Clap own hands, then pat partner's hands high.

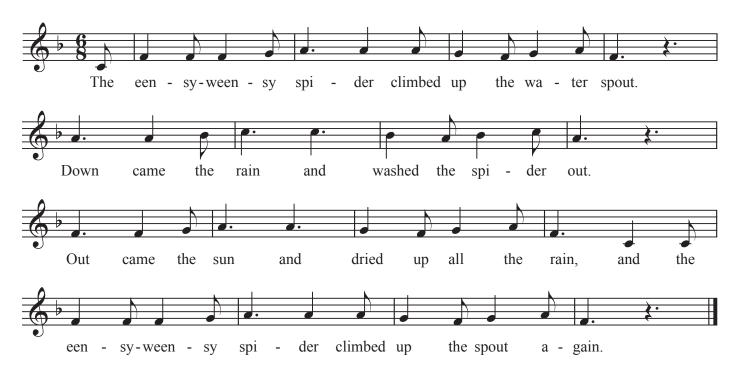
Measure 2: Clap own hands, then pat own legs.

Measures 3–4: Step, two, three, four (change places).

Repeat.

The Eensy-Weensy Spider

Traditional

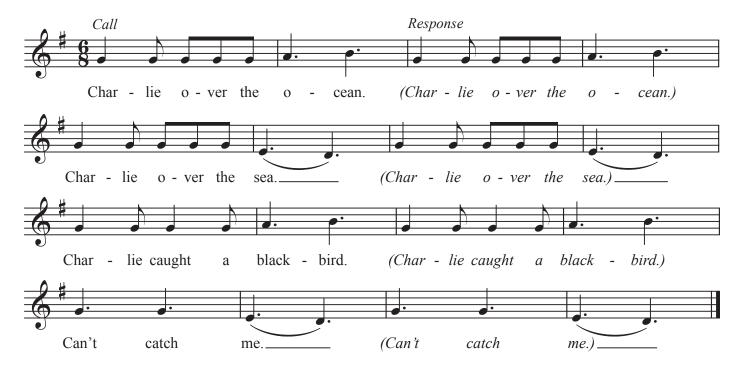


- 1. Sing the song and create motions or movements to illustrate each phrase.
- 2. Listen to "Ah, vous dirai-je, Maman," K. 265 ("Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"), by Mozart. Experiment with different ways of moving to indicate each phrase.



Charlie Over the Ocean

Traditional



- 1. Sing the song phrase by phrase. After each phrase is sung, echo the phrase on the recorder or piano. Ask the students to describe what is happening. Identify the "call" and "response."
- 2. Sing the song as written and have the students provide the response. Invite individual students to perform the call and supply simple motions to accompany the text.
- 3. Teach and play the following game: Students stand in a circle with one student (the caller) on the outside. As the caller leads the song, she or he walks around the circle, tapping each student on the shoulder. At the end of the song, the caller takes the hand of the last person tapped. The pair skips around the outside of the circle while the class keeps the beat and you play the melody on the piano or another instrument. When they get back to the empty spot, the current caller joins the circle and the game continues with the last person who was tapped as the new caller.

