

Using Songs for Teaching EFL or ESL to Children



“Make New Friends” (A Round)

Experience and Rationale

Listening to songs in the target language is a great way to get children familiar with the sounds of the language, with words and phrases, and with grammar structures.

This slideshow gives some ideas for using songs with children for listening but also for singing.

Experience and Rationale

Songs add variety to lessons and can be used as warm-up or closing activities.

Songs provide situated practice for vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.



Experience and Rationale

Songs provide opportunities for learning “chunks” and formulaic expressions, which may be available for analysis later.

Songs may appeal to varied learning styles and multiple intelligences.

Songs involve “tonal memory” for learning.
Children can sing while doing other things.

Listening to Rounds

A **round** is a song where more than one person or more than one group sings the same words with the same tune but starting to sing at different times.

When rounds are sung well, they create beautiful harmony. As a result, singing rounds can be very rewarding for young singers without any vocal training.

Listening to Rounds

Begin by having the students listen to a song and notice words they know.

Ask them what the song is about.

Introduce new vocabulary as needed.

Singing Rounds

In singing rounds, more than one group sings the same words and melody, but starting to sing at different times.

When rounds are sung well, they create beautiful harmony. As a result, singing rounds can be very rewarding for young singers without any vocal training.

Singing Rounds

Tips for teaching children to sing rounds:

1. Start with a simple tune and easy words.
2. Sing the song with the children two or three times, until they know the melody.
3. As you teach them, raise and lower your hand to indicate the pitch changes. Here is an example:

Make New Friends

-ep

ke- the-

but

-e

o-

-old

Make

friends

new

Make New Friends

-ver

One is sil-

and

the

o-

-ther's

gold.

Singing Rounds

You can help children learn the words by showing them pictures (and then having them hold up pictures) – first as they listen and then as they sing.

When they almost have the words mastered, you can do a mini-cloze exercise by erasing or deleting the rhyming words.

Make New Friends

Here is a fun and easy round. The first verse is very simple:

Make new friends
But keep the old.

One is silver
And the other's gold.



Make New Friends

Language note: Connected speech

Make_new_friends

But_keep_the_old.

One_is_silver

And_the_ other's _gold.

("other's" = "other is")

Make New Friends

Make new friends but keep the old....



Make New Friends

One is silver and the other's gold.



Make New Friends

Make new friends but _____



Make New Friends

One is silver _____.



Make New Friends

Divide the children into two groups. Show the second group where to begin – in this case, at the end of the first line:



Make new friends, but keep the old
[2nd group starts here, 1st group keeps singing].

Repeat the song three times.

Make New Friends

When the children have the idea of how to sing a round, break them into three groups. This time they start after the first phrase:

Make new friends but keep the old...

Make new friends but ...

Make new....

Make New Friends

You can add the second verse:

A circle is round. It has no end.

That's how long I want to be your friend.

Make New Friends

For a diverse group (different ages, different ethnicities) singing the first verse as a round, you can visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eweZdm9vZQ>

Make New Friends

For a catchy version with a hip-hop twist,
you can visit

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci-
liHa_NNo&list=RDr9NwEGSQ3r4&start_radio
=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci-liHa_NNo&list=RDr9NwEGSQ3r4&start_radio=1)

Make New Friends

Please feel free to use the slideshow and change it in any way that suits your needs.



Have fun singing this song with your students!