

Teaching Songs & Chants

- Step 1** Wake up and activate! Vocal cords benefit from physical activity, so warm up with running on the spot, hopping, and stretching exercises for the facial muscles, e.g. yawning.
- Step 2** Say briefly what the story is about, just to set the scene.
- Step 3** Song: Sing the song to the class, with music if possible. ***You should know the song by heart!***
Chant: Recite the chant to the class emphasising the rhythm.
- Step 4** Choose a short extract from the song/chant to begin with. It can be the beginning or the chorus if there is one. Tap out the rhythm a few times then get the children to tap with you. You can stamp the rhythm to make it more obvious for the children and add variety by clapping instead of tapping. Practise until they can keep the rhythm going throughout this extract. If this takes too long, you have chosen too long an extract. ***Try a shorter one next time.***
- Step 5** You add the words, still tapping or stamping. Don't sing yet, concentrate on the rhythm.
- Step 6** *Song only:* Sing/chant this extract for the class a few times then ask the children to join in. Provide musical accompaniment if possible.
- Step 7** Repeat Steps 4 to 6 with the next part of the song/chant (where applicable), and the next, until the song/chant is complete.
- Step 8** ***Should you be using a playback version, start slowly and gradually increase the speed until you have reached the original speed on the tape/CD.***
- Step 9** ***Performance!***

Note:

- You do not have to do all the song/chant in one lesson. Each part could
- ***Provide visuals as mnemonic aids to help the children remember the words better.***
- ***Create opportunities to present songs and chants. Invite parents, other classes, head teachers or school inspectors. There is no better motivation for practice than a performance coming up!***

Problems:

- Mistakes in tapping out, chanting, or singing can creep in. Stop the class and sing/chant just the 'problem zone' very exactly for them.
- Some children cannot sing in tune. Do not stop them taking part, the main thing is they enjoy it and benefit from the foreign language experience.