

ACTIVITY 6

Teacher as Songwriter



INTENT:

Engage teachers in a process of creating their own song lyrics based on familiar tunes that can be used to support smooth transitions, English learners, memory, cooperation, and other learning domains based on the needs of students.



OUTCOMES:

Participants create and use their own songs to enhance learning for children and support positive classroom management strategies.



MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Chart paper and markers for each table group
- Cards with sample songs



TIME: 15-30 minutes



PROCESS:

- Distribute song card samples to each table group.
- Introduce the activity by saying, "Writing your own song lyrics allows you to personalize a song to meet the particular needs of your group of children. All parts of your daily schedule can be connected by using simple, familiar melodies such as 'Where is Thumbkin?' or 'Are You Sleeping?' with specific verses to meet the needs of your class."
- Say to participants, "This strategy supports transitions/classroom management, self-regulation, group participation, cooperation and responsibility, English-language development, sequencing and memory, and vocabulary development. It's also a stress reliever and increases the joy in any activity!" (References: *Learning through Music: The Support of Brain Research by Elizabeth Carlton; Exchange, Curriculum: Art, Music, Movement, Drama A Beginnings Workshop Book*, pp. 45-48, edited by Bonnie Neugebauer.)
- Instruct participants to complete the following steps:
 1. Choose a familiar melody and a purpose for your song. (Participants may use the Song Card samples for inspiration or choose a personal favorite. Songs can be in any language.)
 2. Work as a table group to create lyrics set to that tune.
 3. Write your purpose, the tune, and your lyrics on the chart paper; place the chart on the wall.
 4. Rehearse your song; be ready to share with the whole group. (Have as many groups share their songs as time allows. Leave the charts around the room so participants can take a gallery walk at a break or after the workshop.)

OPTIONAL:

To provide an opportunity for participants to get up and move during this activity hang chart paper on the walls throughout the room. Direct table groups to take their select a chart location, take their sample song cards and markers to their selected chart, and follow the instructions to create their song.