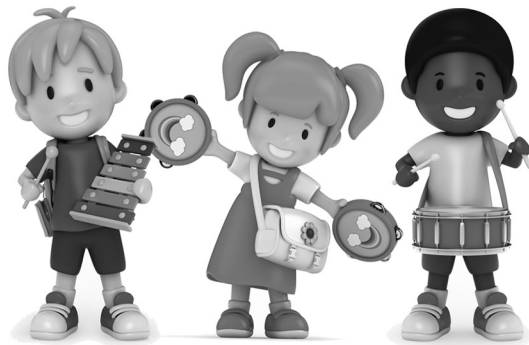


sing

Thinking Songs

10 fun songs to help us consider ourselves and others



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kevin
mayhew

Using the songs

School song

This song could be used in any school whose ethos is one of caring, kindness and respect, and which values the uniqueness of each member of the school community. *School song* promotes a very positive sense of belonging to a community, encouraging learning, and the development of relationships and caring through work and play. It is about children feeling positive about themselves and each other, and each individual being responsible for creating that safe and nurturing environment. The song celebrates all success of every member, at whatever level that may be.

Reach for the sky

Reach for the sky encourages every child to set their goals high, to believe in themselves, to try their best and not to give up when things seem too difficult. This is a song of exhortation to achieve and to be proud of those achievements, at whatever level and in whatever area – from putting their shoes on the right way round, to learning to spell a difficult word, to being able to leave dad in the morning without crying, to learning to tell the time and so on. It can be used as a starting point for pupils to consider what they want to achieve and what things they can set in place to help them achieve their goals. The children can proudly and justifiably think of themselves as stars!

Thank you

This song was written for children to sing to say thank you and goodbye to a much-loved head teacher who was retiring. However, it could equally be used at a leavers' assembly or to say thank you to any special person who was moving on from a school. There is an optional second part, which could either be sung by a smaller group of children or played, if you have any instrumentalists of that ability. *Thank you* explores the importance of thanking people for the things they do or just for who they are. It encourages children to appreciate those around them and to express that appreciation, exploring the different ways that can be done – with words, a smile, or a touch. The song also recognises that we all view each other and feel things about each other in different ways, opening up the possibility of exploring our visual, auditory and

kinaesthetic preferences. By encouraging children to show their appreciation of people who are important to them, they can learn to give praise, and understand the importance of enabling others to feel good about themselves. They can seek ways of doing this on a daily basis with their friends and families.

Heartbeat

Here is a soft, gentle song to soothe and calm and make us pause for a moment in our activity. When we are anxious or worried or just very busy, singing this lulling song can help us notice a stillness that can be found, both in the natural world and inside ourselves. If we can recognise and harness this peacefulness, it will help us to tackle life with its daily challenges in a much calmer and more productive way.

Are you like me?

Are you like me? challenges children to consider the things about us that make us different and the things that make us the same. It also begs the question: are these things important? This song would probably be sung amongst mainly able-bodied children, but clearly, some of us have bodies that do not have elbows, knees etc. The song is not meant to be exclusive, but to enable able-bodied children, in a fun way, to look at what matters about being a person. It celebrates difference.

Friendship

This song explores some of the different emotions we feel which can be quite bewildering. *Friendship* looks at some of the key emotions, such as fear, happiness and anger, but can be used as a starting point to discuss and recognise other emotions and ways of understanding, expressing and valuing them. It acknowledges the value of having someone to help you understand the way you feel – a friend, a parent, grandparent, brother or sister, a teacher or a group of friends – it doesn't matter who, as long as you are not on your own. This can lead to a discussion about the different ways in which various people can help us and how we can best help others. The song is also a 'thank you' to that person (or people) for being there and could be used at leavers' or 'goodbye' assemblies.

Dream

Dream is a powerful and moving song, encouraging children to be aware of their privilege and of others' suffering, and to learn that we have the power to influence our small world by our own actions and attitudes. It can be used as a springboard for discussions around making our world a fair, peaceful, caring, safe place – be that world our family, classroom, school, town or country. This can be useful when discussing and drawing up rules for the classroom or playground. The song also recognises that sometimes the simple, innocent actions or words of a child can cut through the complexities of a difficult situation, and that children should be encouraged to have confidence in their ideas and their instincts, and to act rather than assume that only adults can have the answers or the power to make changes. This will encourage their sense of responsibility for creating peace, harmony and fairness within the communities to which they belong.

Come travel with me

This could be sung on a number of levels – as a two- or three-part round or as a straight song with one, two or three parts, depending on the ages and abilities of the children, and the confidence of the teacher! With all three parts sung together, the song is a challenging piece, because of the different cross-rhythms. Alternatively, it can be sung straight through, moving more easily between the rhythms. The children are invited to exercise their imagination. The song can be used as a springboard for encouraging them to think about our common humanity, diversity and differences as they imagine what it would be like to be in various parts of the world. It encourages them to lift the parameters of their thinking above what they know, to explore the possibilities of lives different from their own, opening up the opportunities for dialogue around similarities and differences between groups of people. Singing about other parts of the world, as well as different modes of transport, can be used to support aspects of geography, including environmental issues around pollution, features of other environments, links between various parts of the world, maps etc. The song also links in with the scientific exploration of forces and motion.

Treasure

Here is a simple but very beautiful song, which has an important message: every one of us has something unique and precious which, if shared with those around us, produces something very beautiful. The children love to discuss what that 'treasure' is – and can embark on an exciting journey of discovery to find out the various gifts each of us has, to bring happiness, comfort, laughter and kindness to one another. There are some pieces of treasure we all have – a smile, a gentle touch, a kind word etc. And there are some jewels unique to each individual – something special that I do or I am that is different from anybody else. Learning to know what our gifts are liberates us to share them and watch them grow.

Ouch!

This is a wonderful, fun song about the bumps, bruises and scrapes of childhood! Hopefully, it will help children to see the funny side of their collections of injuries and to gain an unusual perspective on how you might feel when you hurt yourself!

School song

Ali Dee

Rehearsal: CD track 1

Performance: CD track 2

Proudly (♩ = 100)

Em⁷ A⁷(sus4) A⁷ D(sus4) D *Refrain*

This is the

4 G G/F# Em⁷ Bm Gmaj⁷ A(sus4) A⁷ D

place where we are safe and free to play and be with o - thers who

8 G G/F# Em⁷ A⁷(sus4) A⁷ D(sus4) D

make us feel that we are spe - cial too. 1. We've
2. We're

11 Gmaj⁷ Dmaj⁷ Em⁷ A⁷

friends to play with and fun to share, love and kind-ness are
real - ly proud of the things we do, we are proud of each

14 Dmaj7 D7 Gmaj7 Dmaj7

ev - 'ry - where, and all a - round us are those who care; our
o - ther too. We read and count and we skip and run; our

17 Em7 A7(sus4) A7 D(sus4) D Refrain

laugh - ter al - ways fills the air. This is the
learn - ing fills our days with fun.

20 G G/F# Em7 Bm Gmaj7 A(sus4) A7

place where we are safe and free to play and be with

23 D G G/F# Em7 A7 A7 D(sus4) D

rit.

o - thers who make us feel that we are spe - cial too.