

Effective Song Leading

- Develop your own style of leading. Song leading does not come naturally to most people, so find the style in which you are most relaxed.
- Practice songs with musicians. Make sure you are all at the same rhythm and tempo, and work out both the beginning and ending of songs.
- Use some method for keeping the beat of the song: hand clapping, finger snapping, arm motions, etc.
- If you tend to sing off-key, have a guitar player help you start the song. Once the song has started and kids know the melody, you don't have to be heard to lead the song.
- Be enthusiastic! Genuine enthusiasm is infectious, and can make up for any lack of ability.
- If kids think you know what you're doing, they'll follow you (whether you know what you're doing or not).
- Remember, the objective is to get the kids to enjoy singing together as a group, not to draw attention to yourself.
- Try not to worry about how you come off. Kids will always appreciate you if you are sincere and able to laugh at yourself.



Effective Song Selection

- Choose songs which have fairly simple, well known with straightforward rhythms.
- Have at least one song that is a sure winner, i.e., one that you are sure the kids know well and enjoy singing.
- Try to develop a few songs that are unique to your particular club. For example, do takeoffs on current songs that are popular at your school, or insert phrases in standard songs which relate to your school.
- Don't be afraid to try new songs. Kids enjoy learning new songs if they are taught effectively.
- Use songs to set up the message, especially intermediate and slow songs. Have the speaker refer to them in his or her message. This will help kids to think about the words they are singing and make the message and the singing more real to them.
- Use current, popular songs with care. They don't necessarily have to have overt Christian meanings, but make sure they are not obviously or subtly anti-Christian. Music has a definite emotional and psychological effect on kids, and we need to be wise in how we use it.