

Songbirds

Actions · Games & Activities



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Foreword

As many teachers of young children would agree, songs can be used as creative and entertaining ways to teach English. And now *Songbirds* can provide teachers with the musical resource they have been looking for! This book contains not only common songs familiar to native English speaking children, but it also provides teachers with ideas for hand motions, games, and activities to use along with the songs. These songs and activities will certainly stimulate interest in children and give them a chance to practice English in and outside of the classroom.

Songbirds is organized into two books.

Song Book with audio CD contains the lyrics and music to 125 well-known English children's songs.

Activity Book consists of the following two parts.

- **Part 1** contains an illustrated guide for hand motions and TPR activities useful for teaching songs and helping children internalize vocabulary and sentence structure.
- **Part 2** contains ideas for classroom games and activities that compliment many of the songs presented in *Songbirds*.

Teachers who have used *Songbirds* have found many benefits of incorporating songs into the curriculum of their classrooms. Students have an easier time recalling vocabulary from the songs through repetition of the lyrics and connection of the words to rhythms and melodies. And because the songs used in *Songbirds* have been slightly modified for presenting high frequency vocabulary and useful standard expressions, the words and expressions learned can be used by students in the future. Singing also provides children with good pronunciation practice of both simple and more difficult words. And through the games and activities presented in this book, students can participate together in positive, active ways.

Used together, the two *Songbirds* books will provide hours of music and fun for any English classroom.

Preface

Part 1 60 Actions

The first part of the book presents hand and body motions for students to use while singing the songs. The actions include gestures, finger play, clapping, and other motions of the body.

A benefit of using actions to teach songs to children is that the actions can help students understand the lyrics of the song. For example, having students move their hands far apart while singing "wide" associates the word with a concrete idea. Through mime and physical depictions of words students will acquire vocabulary to express emotions, musical instruments, body parts, sizes, colors, and more!

All of the actions described in the second part of the book are accompanied by detailed illustrations and simple explanations. There are also additional language tips and chants suggested with many of the actions.

Part 2 36 Games & Activities

Part two of the book provides teachers with additional games and activities that can be used after certain songs have been learned. These games and activities can be used to teach more about the subject of the song, or review and practice vocabulary. The various games and activities in this section include speaking and writing activities, card games, and physically active games in which students act out commands, find objects, or do pantomimes. There are also drawing activities, crafts, and recipes.

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Songbirds

Part 1

60 Actions



Here are some action songs, songs to sing while clapping, making funny motions with your hands, moving around and jumping up and down.

1. Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Action

Nature - 1

1. Twinkle, twinkle



Wave your hands to the right.

2. little star



Wave your hands to the left.

3. How I wonder what you are!



Wave your hands from top to bottom.

4. Up above the



Point to the sky with one hand.

5. world so high,



Point up with the other hand.

6. Like a diamond



Make a diamond shape in the air.

7. in the sky,

Point to the sky by one hand.

8. Twinkle, twinkle little star, How I wonder what you are!

Repeat 1, 2, 3.