



## **Is Anyone Singing?**

By Marty Stover, Ph.D. with Missy Becker

Have you ever taught a new song or singing game and felt you were the only one singing? Did you avoid trying the song again for fear no one would sing? Perhaps you thought the children disliked the song and activity.

In a recent elementary classroom music methods class, I encouraged the students to select a song and teach it to children. One student, Missy Becker, gave the following account of her experience. Does this sound familiar?

Missy: I work at a local Kindercare after school, and recently I decided to teach my kids one of the songs that I had learned in *Methods of Music*. The song I chose was *Penny Song*. Sometimes I feel awkward when we sing in class, but I never feel that way in front of my kids at Kindercare. Kids love to sing, and they love for you to sing with them. I thought teaching them a new song would be fun. When I first taught the song, I must have sung it through twelve times before I decided to stop playing the game and move on to something else. All twelve times, I sang the song by myself. I thought the children did not like the song or the game. The next day I came to work and the first thing out of one little boy's mouth was, "Can we play the Penny Game today?" I was so excited. I had thought that no one liked the game, and that, no one knew the song. Well again, I was wrong. We sat down to play the game, and I could not for the life of me remember the melody of the song. I told this to my class and one little girl said, "I'll help you," and proceeded to sing the whole song. Since then, we have played the penny game a number of times and the kids love it. Talk about reading the feelings of my class completely wrong!

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