



Chinning

Chinning is singing using neutral syllables, such as loo or la.

Purposes of Chinning

- Neutralize the effect of vowels and consonants so that elements of the song can be heard more clearly
- Engage students in careful, focused study
- Sharpen and hone listening skills
- Vary the practice of a particular song

Samples of Chinning Practices

- **Introduce “Chinning” to Your Students**

Scenario I

The teacher chins the song. *What did you notice about the way I performed the song?* Students describe and practice chinning the song.

Scenario II

Sing a song using the words. Then, *Let's sing the song again. Instead of singing the words, sing loo for every sound (syllable) in the song.*

- **Explanation of the Term**

When we sing a song or other music using neutral syllables we call that “chinning.”

- **Secret Song**

Listen! What song comes to mind? Teacher chins the song.

- **Highlight a portion of the song for study purposes**

Scenario I

- *Let's sing the song Old MacDonald. When we come to the words 'Here a chick, there a chick, everywhere a chick, chick,' in place of the words, chin the syllable 'loo'.*

- The students and the teacher ch in the song. *What did you notice about the part of the song that we chinned?* The teacher may choose to sing the unison chunk once more. Students respond.

Scenario II

- Sing the song "Circle Left".
- *How many times do we sing the words "circle left" in this song?* Three times.
- Sing the song again but instead of the words "circle left" sing loo in its place. Students sing & ch in.
- *What did you notice about the "circle left" chunks of the song?* They are exactly the same.
- *Are they the same both melodically and rhythmically?* Sing and check.

Historical Background of Chinning

This valuable teaching strategy originated in the Maritime Provinces of Canada and was used to provide dance music when no instrument was available.

Bibliography

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