

Kindness Songs & Activities (for use with Tracy Curvelo's Singing Safari)

I tried a few activities for singing about kindness today that went really well and led very nicely into a sharing time in which our Primary President had the children act out parts of 1 Corinthians 12 to discuss the importance of diversity, not bullying, etc.

During Singing Time, I chose the songs, then the children took turns choosing animals using the Singing Safari that Tracy Curvelo posted so we would know how to sing the song:

- A Special Gift is Kindness – 145a - Monkeys in Jr., Rhinos in Sr.
- Kindness Begins with Me – 145b – Hippos
- Choose the Right - #239 (Senior only) – Elephant stomps
- Jesus Said Love Everyone – 61 (Junior only) – Elephant stomps with waving trunks
- I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus – 78 (Senior only) – Zebras (I brought the eye spy binoculars made of toilet paper tubes to review this one with, but we didn't end up using them)
- Stand for the Right – (Senior only due to time) - Crocodiles
- We Are Different – 263 (Junior only) – Rhinos & Zebras (b/c we sang each verse multiple times)
- Love One Another – 136 (Senior only) - Monkeys
- I'll Walk with You – 140 – Giraffes

In addition to the animal actions, I then used the following activities to teach or review certain songs.

WE ARE DIFFERENT

Two weeks ago, I posted links to the songs "We are Different" and "I'll Walk with You" on our ward Facebook page and asked parents to help their kids become familiar with them—perhaps by listening to them as they were getting ready for bed or for church.

Today, when we did the song "We are Different," I told the children that we were each going to learn a part. I sang my part, "I know you!" Then I taught them their part, "And you know me!" and we sang their part three or four times in a row until they could sing it without me prompting them (we have lots of 3- and 4-year-olds in Jr. Primary, so it takes a lot of repetition). Then I sang my part, pointed to them, and they sang their part.

For the next section, I had the children sitting to my right stand and put their arms in a circle and wave it back and forth as though they were the sunshine trying really hard to shine. Then I had the children sitting to my left stand and wiggle their arms like they were the crashing waves of the sea (and I asked

Kindness Songs & Activities (for use with Tracy Curvelo's Singing Safari)

them what the sea was and we agreed that it was just another word for "ocean.") Then, we sang that section of the song two or three times as they hopped out of their chairs to do their actions.

Then we sang the whole thing up to that part, and finally ended with our hands on our hips shaking our heads up and down to the rhythm for "And that's the way that it's supposed to be."

Then we did the 2nd verse and they were able to guess their part just from having sung the first verse.

Once they knew the song, we sang it "sharply" like rhinos, and then did the zebras activity too.

I'LL WALK WITH YOU

For this song, I had planned to ask some of the children to learn it in advance and then act it out (musical style) for the rest of the Primary as I taught it. I forgot to ask them, though, so as my back-up, I just slapped a quick poster together with pictures from the Gospel Art Picture Kit. Then I acted out the song as I sang it to them. After the first line, I stopped the song and made a quick comment about one of my friends who is in a wheelchair. After the second line, I stopped the song again and started speaking in Spanish to one of our new Primary children who only knows a little English. Then I pointed out to the rest of the Primary that not everyone talks like we do, but that we can still be friends. The first three lines are easy and catchy, and the kids can easily sing the "I won'ts" and "I wills." I stopped there for Jr. Primary. We sang through the rest of the song that talks about Jesus in Senior Primary, but only once in the interest of time.

Once they knew the song, we sang like giraffes.

A SPECIAL GIFT IS KINDNESS (JR.) & LOVE ONE ANOTHER (SR.)

For this song, I asked a sister who has a cochlear implant to come to Primary. I reminded the children that they had probably seen people interpreting for her during Sacrament Meeting and then explained that it was because she couldn't hear very well. We talked about the fact that we should be kind to people who are different from us (because we are all different). She showed them her implant, then I explained that she talks with her hands. (This sounds like a lot of talking, but took less than about 30-45 seconds.) Then the pianist slowly played "A Special Gift is Kindness" in Jr. and "Love One Another" in Sr. and the sister signed it as the children copied her. (For those doing the Singing Safari, we did this activity for Monkey See, Monkey Do.)

Kindness Songs & Activities (for use with Tracy Curvelo's Singing Safari)

Two weeks ago, I also asked adults in the ward to keep an eye out for children who did kind things for others and to post those things on our ward Facebook page. Our secretary printed off their responses and then I told the children that the ward members had been watching their behavior just like we observe animal behavior when we are on safari. After each song, I read an example of a kind thing that someone in our ward had observed the children doing. It worked especially well in Senior Primary. They were sooooo reverent during those parts and I really felt the Spirit today in that group.

Jr. Primary didn't really seem to care about the kind deeds, but loved being animals. Apparently something still sunk in because one of the mothers texted to let me know that her 5-year-old daughter came home and asked her older sisters if they got to go "on the Ferarri" today like she did. The mother then thanked me for the love and effort I put into each lesson. So thank you to all of you because my Primary children benefit so much from your generosity in sharing your ideas here!

Cherice Montgomery