

GRASSHOPPER

Sing & Shine: Songs of Play & Friendship 🤝🎵

Grade

K-8

Overall Goal

Students will explore play, laughter, and connection through folk songs and singing games. They will build ensemble skills, practice harmony, and experience joy in group music-making.

Activities

(1-hour session sample)

- Hello Song + Check-In
- Listening/Discussion: Folk song of the day
- Singing Warm-Up/Movement Break (game-style)
- Song Learning (rhythm → pitch → lyrics)
- Group Singing (add movement, rounds, or harmony)
- Goodbye Song

Supplies

- Lyric sheets (optional)
- Rhythm sticks or clapping games (body percussion works too)
- Space for movement/circle games
- Keyboard, ukulele, or guitar for accompaniment
- Songlist: *Make New Friends*, *Skip to My Lou*, *Polly Wolly Doodle*, *Kumbaya*, *Ring Around the Rosie*, *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*, *Row Row Row Your Boat*

Series Worksheet

#	Main Topic Idea	Activities
1	Singing Together	Call & response, <i>Make New Friends</i>
2	Playful Singing	Animal farm sounds, <i>Skip to My Lou</i>
3	Laughter & Song	Pitch exploration, <i>Polly Wolly Doodle</i>
4	Songs for Sharing	Partner echoes, <i>Kumbaya</i>
5	Musical Games	Rhythm clapping, <i>Ring Around the Rosie</i>
6	Team Spirit	Tongue twisters, <i>Michael Row the Boat Ashore</i>
7	Building Harmony	Drone + melody, <i>Row Row Row Your Boat</i>
8	Friendship Songfest	Mini-performance + group songwriting

GRASSHOPPER

Planning for a Successful Lesson

Hook and Opening

Start with a circle hello song, then introduce today's theme (friendship, laughter, games).

Modeling

Learning Objective: Sing folk songs with clear rhythm and ensemble awareness.

Model call & response or echo patterns with playful exaggeration.

Check for Understanding

Ask: "What do you notice about how we stayed together?"

Let kids reflect on rhythm, pitch, or listening.

Guided Practice

Kids sing in pairs, small groups, or the full ensemble. Encourage mistakes → laughter → retry. Build community.

✨ By the end of 8 weeks, students will:

- Gain confidence singing in groups.
- Experience music as play + friendship.
- Learn rounds, harmony, and playful movement songs.
- Create their own "friendship song."

GRASSHOPPER

Sing & Shine: Songs of Play & Friendship with Eddie

Instructions:

Check out this sample lesson plan and activity ideas for inspiration, ideas, and more. Feel free to edit, delete, or highlight to make it your own! These notes are yours to customize. They will not be published anywhere such that you're held to teaching exactly what's here.

Topics

singing basics, performance, play, friendship

Lesson Ideas

Lesson Title

Sing & Shine: Songs of Play & Friendship

Duration

1 hour

Lesson Plan

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Welcome the students and introduce the theme of the day, focusing on the joy of singing and the importance of friendship.

2. Warm-Up (10 minutes)

- Vocal exercises and breathing techniques to prepare for singing. Encourage children to mimic animal sounds to make it fun.

3. Play Song Learning (15 minutes)

GRASSHOPPER

- Teach a simple, catchy song about play that includes easy-to-learn lyrics and movements. For example, "If You're Happy and You Know It."

4. Friendship Song Learning (15 minutes)

- Introduce a song about friendship, such as "You've Got a Friend in Me." Discuss the song's meaning and how music can bring people together.

5. Performance Practice (10 minutes)

- Break into small groups to practice the songs together. Encourage children to add their creative movements.

6. Sharing & Reflection (5 minutes)

- Have each group perform their song for the rest of the class. End with a discussion on what they enjoyed about singing and how it made them feel.

Materials List

- Bluetooth speaker or CD player
- Song lyrics printed out
- List of simple dance moves
- Water bottles
- Props for performance (optional)

Adaptations for Different Ages

- For younger children: Simplify song lyrics and focus more on the fun of singing and moving to music.
- For older children: Introduce basic harmonies and more complex songs.

Movement Break

- Lead a mid-session dance break to a high-energy song that encourages movement and is related to play and friendship.

Bonus Activities

- Craft activity: Create friendship bracelets to extend the theme of friendship.
- Songwriting: Encourage children to write their short verse about friendship to the tune of one of the songs learned.

GRASSHOPPER

Series Outline

****Week 1: Introduction to Singing Basics****

- Discuss the basic concepts of pitch and melody through simple interactive games.
- Teach breathing exercises to improve vocal control and relaxation.
- Introduce a fun vocal warm-up song that involves easy, repetitive lyrics.

****Week 2: Rhythmic Exploration****

- Explore rhythm using hand claps and percussion instruments like tambourines or shakers.
- Create simple body percussion patterns to enhance rhythm understanding.
- Practice rhythm games that require children to follow and repeat patterns.

****Week 3: Melody and Harmony****

- Sing popular nursery rhymes to identify melody lines.
- Introduce basic harmonizing by singing in rounds.
- Encourage small group activities to compose simple two-line melodies.

****Week 4: Expressing Emotions Through Music****

- Discuss how different songs convey various emotions.
- Have children draw how certain songs make them feel.
- Use expressive movement or dance as a form of musical interpretation.

****Week 5: The Art of Performance****

- Teach the fundamentals of stage presence and confidence building.
- Create a mini-performance where children sing in front of their peers.
- Discuss the importance of audience etiquette and support.

****Week 6: Songs of Play****

- Introduce traditional play songs from different cultures.
- Encourage children to invent new lyrics to familiar play tunes.
- Organize outdoor singing games that involve physical activity.

****Week 7: Building Friendships Through Music****

- Assign partner activities where children create a friendship song together.
- Discuss lyrical themes related to friendship and kindness.

GRASSHOPPER

- Facilitate group singing exercises that promote teamwork and collaboration.

****Week 8: Creativity with Songwriting****

- Guide children in the process of writing their own short songs.
- Focus on creating simple lyrics and catchy melodies.
- Share and perform original songs within the group to boost confidence.

****Week 9: Musical Storytelling****

- Combine storytelling with singing by choosing narrative songs.
- Encourage children to create short musical plays based on a song's story.
- Use props and simple costumes to bring musical stories to life.

****Week 10: Grand Friendships Concert****

- Organize a final concert where children perform songs learned throughout the series.
- Invite families and friends to celebrate the children's musical journey.
- Reflect on personal growth and experiences shared over the 10 weeks through a group discussion.

For additional support, reference this [experience outline template](#) which includes tips and prompts to help you develop and lead an excellent Grasshopper Kids experience.

Note: This lesson plan outline was drafted by Hopper. If you would like to see different results, you can [submit another idea](#), or text us with feedback so we can work to make the algorithm better. We built this tool to help save you time in bringing more kids enrichment experience ideas to life!

