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**100 Teaching Tips, Tricks and Shortcuts for the Elementary Music Classroom**

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| **1. Teaching Songs (12)*** Lean Forwards Lean Backwards <https://dsmusic.com.au/blog/lean-forward/>
* Today is Monday #25 (Gr. 1 Music Play)
* This Land is Your Land (Michael Mitchell recording)
* Our Old Sow #28 (Gr. 5 Music Play)
* My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean – actions on letters
* Got a Hat Hat #57 (Gr. 3 Music Play)
* Austrian Went Yodelling #62 (Gr. 3 Music Play) - avalanche, skier, grizzly bear, Saint Bernard, dinosaur, jersey cow <https://campsongs.wordpress.com/2012/05/03/an-austrian-went-yodeling/>
* Reflections of a Lad at Sea – Ghost Ship
* Song for the Mira (SSA or SATB)– Allister MacGillivray
* When Billy Was One #99 (Sail Away 155 American Folk Songs –E. G. Locke)
* The Wind – Cecil Sharman (Royal Conservatory of Music Grade 1 - 1998)
* Snowflake - Cyril Hamshire (Royal Conservatory of Music Introductory - 2005)
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| **2. Music Reading Ideas (6)*** Introduce the concept of line, bar, word
* Show movement of musical line
* Shakers for beat or ostinatos
* Teach part of the song to solfege then students identify which parts are sung
* Teacher and students show movement up and down on the staff when singing a line
* 5 skipping ropes for staff
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| **3. Organizational Ideas (10)*** Colour code duo tangs per grade
* Use double pocket folders
* Colour code pages
* Clipboard with class lists – use short hand codes (add date)
* Leave 2 extra copies in bottom of bin
* Cup games – dollar store children’s cups
* Cup games –move desks to create a standing circle
* Music Bin police
* Photocopy song in miniature
* Create Google classroom for choir

**4. Favourite Story Song Books & Resources (22) –see music resources list****5. Favourite Games & Singing Games (9)**GAMES:* Music Memory – rhythms, solfege
* Halloween colouring spider
* Halloween pumpkin colouring of notes

SINGING GAMES:* Our Old Sow – Music Play Grade 5
* Lean Forwards Lean Backwards - actions
* Al Citron (120 Singing Games and Dances)
* Austrian Went Yodelling (Music –different words)
* My Landlord (120 Singing Games and Dances – do in groups of 4)
* Old Brass Wagon - #28 (Gr. 3 Music Play)

**6. Evaluation Ideas (9)*** Perform verses that they wrote in a circle -small groups perform verse & class sings the chorus
* Clipboard with class lists stapled in a booklet
* Rhythm snakes –each write a bar –perform in groups
* Write new words to Fish and Chips and Vinegar
* A Pizza Hut –write new words and actions
* “Class assistants” - lead Welcome to Music and The Music Time is Over
* Music games as class where have to clap a rhythm before turning over next card
* Mystery rhythms cards (solfege or rhythms) (make their own set) -reveal the final answer
* Have beat leaders with a song – “Beat Leader”

**7. Integrating the Arts (5)*** Book: Jungle Drums by Graeme Base –puppets, storytelling (write new story or a play), composition (create songs for the animals or create a musical) or book Magic Beads
* The Wheels on the Bus – (music and drama)
* On Top of Spaghetti - music and drama
* There Was an Old Lady that Swallowed a Fly – make a map of the progression of who swallowed who (also Composition when write new songs)
* My Old Sow – use for DPA

**8. Online Teaching Sites (5)*** Musictechteacher.com - can sign on in pairs and play games together –no account needed <http://www.musictechteacher.com/music_quizzes/music_quizzes.htm>
* Use add on in Google Docs “Flat for Docs” – composition
* San Francisco Kids <http://www.sfskids.org/>
* Sphinx Kids <http://www.sphinxkids.org/>
* Music Teacher’s National Association <https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Parent_and_Student_Resources/Websites_for_Kids.aspx>
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**9. Cool Ideas for Instruments (6)**

* Ice cream spoons for rhythm sticks
* Chopsticks
* Create own shakers with plastic bottles - different sounds
* Markers or highlighters as rhythm sticks
* Salad containers as drums

**10. Compositions and Performance (12)**

SONGS TO CHANGE THE WORDS:

* Hey Lidee – Music Play Gr. 4 (write new verses)
* Fish and Chips (also known as One Bottle of Pop) #16 Gr. 6 Music Play
* Froggie Went a Courting
* The Twelve Dogs of Christmas – The 12 Days of Winter, Halloween, school
* There’s a Hole in the Bucket – ex. flat tire on my car
* On Top of Spaghetti
* Twinkle Twinkle

OTHER:

* Shaker sound compositions – each student writes a bar of rhythm – rondo form – different sounds
* Create different sound effects using shakers
* Rondo Rhythms
* Add actions to songs
* Twinkle Twinkle – add actions to first letters

**11. Extras (4)**

* Change words of song: ”Where is (name), Where is (name)” (primary song) – omit “ma’am and sir”
* Teaching songs in different grades – Use Music Play Kindergarten in Grade 1 & 2 Ex. Dinosaur Diddy-Wa, Canada in My Pocket
* Improv games - count 8 beats
* Use songs that you want them to eventually learn to move to the beat, count and feel length of beats (feet=1 beat, spread hands with kicking feet=2, circle around the head = 4 beats)



**Music Resources**

Baum, M., & Paschkis, J. (2007). *I have a little dreidel*. New York: Scholastic.

Becker, H., & Zimmermann, H. W. (2015). *A porcupine in a pine tree: a Canadian 12 days of Christmas*. Toronto, Ontario: Scholastic Canada Ltd.

Becker, H., & Zimmermann, H. W. (2018). *Dashing through the snow: a Canadian jingle bells*. Toronto: Scholastic Canada Ltd.

Bullock, K. (1993). *She’ll be comin’ round the mountain*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Choksy, L., & Brummitt, D. (1987). *120 Singing games and dances for elementary schools*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Colandro,L., & Lee, J. D. (2014). There was an old lady who swallowed a desk! NY,

NY: Scholastic Inc.

Colandro, L., & Lee, J. (2018). *There was an old lady who swallowed a chick!* New York, NY: Scholastic.

Creighton, H., & DeCoste, W. (2009). *Farewell to Nova Scotia*. Waverley, N.S.: Tall Ships Trading.

Davis, D., & Galey, C. (2007). *Jazz cats*. Gretna, LA: Pelican Pub. Co.

Gagne, D. (1997). *Musicplay: grade 4 music program*. Red Deer, Alta.: Themes & Variations.

Gagne, D. (1997). *Musicplay: grade 5 music program*. Red Deer, Alta.: Themes & Variations.

Gagne, D. (2003). *Musicplay grade 2: music program*. Red Deer, Alta.: Themes & Variations.

Gagne, D. (2003). *Musicplay grade 6: music program*. Red Deer, Alta.: Themes & Variations.

Gagne, D. (2004). *Musicplay grade 1: music program*. Red Deer, Alta.: Themes & Variations.

Gagne, D. (2005). *Musicplay grade 3: music program*. Red Deer, Alta.: Themes & Variations.

Garriel, B. S., & OBrien, J. (2012). *I know a shy fellow who swallowed a cello*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

Grasso, S. P., Jones, C., & Jones, C. B. (2017). *Take me out to the ice rink*. Toronto, Ontario: Scholastic Canada Ltd.

Hawkins, C., & Hawkins, J. (2003). *I know an old lady who swallowed a fly: a hilarious lift-the-flap book*. London: Egmont.

Johnson, P. B., & Glazer, T. (2008). *On top of spaghetti*. New York: Scholastic Press.

Katz, A., & Catrow, D. (2001). *Take me out of the bathtub: and other silly dilly songs*. New York: McElderry.

Kragen, E., Fuller, D., Collins, S., & Moore, K. A. (2010). *The twelve dogs of Christmas*. Nashville, TN: Tommy Nelson.

Locke, E. G., & Goodfellow, R. (1989). *Sail away: 155 American folk songs to sing, read, and play*. New York: Boosey & Hawkes.

MacGillivray, A., & DeCoste, W. (2008). *Song for the Mira*. Waverley, N.S.: Tall Ships Trading Co.

Nielsen-Fernlund, S., & Côté Geneviève. (2020). *The magic beads*. Vancouver, British Columbia: Simply Read Books.

Noordhof, G., & Peddle, D. (2014). *Puffin playing by the sea: the twelve day of Christmas in Newfoundland and Labrador*. Newfoundland: Gina Noordhof.

Priceman, M., Hoty, D., & Abravanel, W. (2001). *Froggie went a-courting:* Boston, MA: Little, Brown.

Turner, T. N., & Rice, J. (2016). *Country music night before Christmas*. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company.

Westcott, N. B. (1995). *There’s a hole in the bucket*. New York: Trumpet Club.

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