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Manage Your Choir with Pizazz

Preparation:

- * Lesson Plan
- * Objective
- ▶ * Classroom Tips
- * Keep it Fun
- * Transitions
- * Discipline

Lesson Plan

1. Have one!

2. Write it out.

You will always see something different when it's written out.

3. Keep it simple.

It can be a song order with a few notes.

4. Chaos is not fun!

Objective

1. Having an objective helps you keep your priorities.

If one activity takes longer than you expect, knowing your objective will help you know what to keep and what to drop from the lesson plan.

Questions to ask yourself:

1. If I were a child, would I want to come to my choir?
2. Did anyone laugh tonight?
3. Did something, sweet, inspirational, or a teachable moment happen that I did not plan tonight?
4. Did my fellow workers and teachers feel good about themselves tonight?
5. How much wasted time was there?
6. Was I prepared?
7. What could I have done better?
8. Did I do my best?
9. Was Christ reflected in my spirit?
10. Did I pray before, during and after choir?

Classroom Tips:

1. Be joyful.
2. Sing more, talk less.
3. State your rules.
4. Demonstrate more than you talk.
5. Pace your rehearsal (this is hard to do without a written lesson plan.
6. Sing Instructions
7. Be flexible.....you might have to change your plans.
Write them out, just don't be married to them.
8. Praise singers and behaviors that you want to encourage.
9. Move around the group.
10. Get on their level.
11. Plan more than you can possible do.
12. Don't forget to pray.

Keep It Fun!:

1. Chaos is not fun – have a plan man!
2. Surprise them – have a special guests, change the order. i.e. Have snacks when they least expect it.
3. A tad of silly goes a long way – funny glasses or hats can become routine to signal a special activity or time each week.

OR

Let them sing a song in slow motion, in a funny voice, or with an accent.

4. Teach them in the three main learning styles: Kinesthetic, visual and auditory.



Transitions:

1. Greetings
2. Call & Response
3. Singing or Chanting Instructions
4. Fun songs
5. Use vocal fluctuations for giving instructions.
6. Teach Pitch & Note direction.

Greetings

1. Can be a poem or a song or fun chant.
2. Can also be a routine, like putting on a hat, but.....
3. Be consistent!
4. Examples:

This is How We Sing Hello – call together with movements.

Come & Sing – Combines greeting and call and response.

Circle Up! – Calling to a specific area.

Call & Response

1. C & R is a technique that can be used to teach almost anything – rhythms, melodies, words, confidence, pitch, diction, voice fluctuation, scripture, ect.

2. Name Games:

* Some are just to get a response: Come on everybody and sing
with

me, I've got a rhythm to rap and you should repeat!

* Some are for a response in rhythm – Say Your Name Chant.

* Some are to involve children in an activity – What's Your Name?

March

Singing or Chanting Instructions

1. This is a wonderful way to keep talking to a minimum as well as keeping them interested.

- ▶ * Something Special – “sit still and be quiet, I’ll give some sticks to you.”
- * March until you can’t hear me....
- * Catch a bubble
- * On the Floor

Use Voice Fluctuations to Give Instructions

1. Chants, song instructions, and sounds are also a wonderful way to transition to a new activity.
2. You do not need a transition between every song/activity and the next one.
 - * Dear Friends – start in a voice that is not your regular voice.
 - * It's so Fun to Be Together – start at a whisper and get louder.

Teaching Pitch and Note Direction

1. Get their bodies involved.
2. Never push a child on an ability. Challenge don't push.
3. Sometimes children have trouble matching pitch because of the physical development of the ear.
 1. Vocal Exercises
 2. Scale Songs
 3. Body Scale
 4. Involving their bodies

Discipline Clues

1. Rewards – tickets and treasure box.
2. Signal behaviors with a sign or an object that represents your desired behavior.
3. Silent conducting. Varying your speech level.
4. Correcting with scriptures is one way to show the children that there is a higher authority than you – God tell us in his Word, the Bible, how we should live everyday and that is just one of the things that make it the most wonderful book.

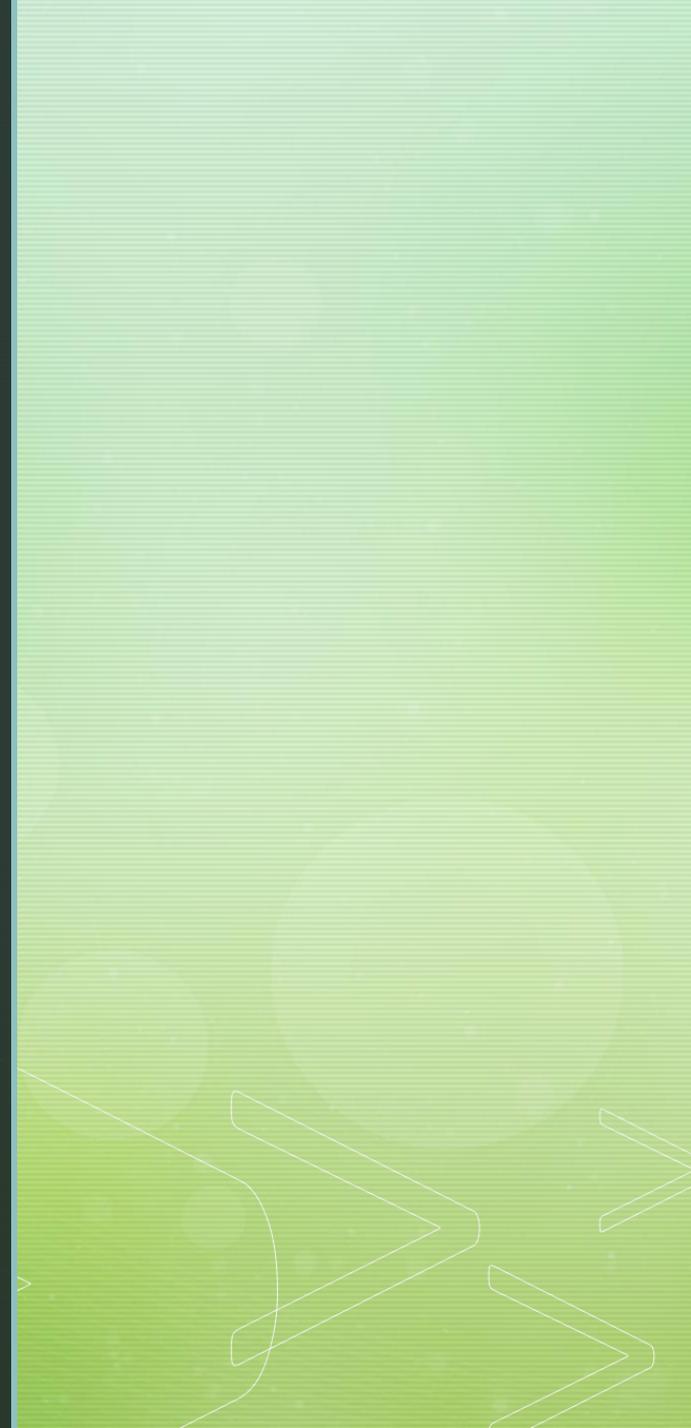
Scriptures

1. All God's Words Are True – Psalm 119:160
2. Attitude – A cheerful heart is good medicine. Prov. 17:22
3. Potty Mouth – Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth. Eph. 4:29
4. Complaining – Give thanks in all circumstances 1 Thess. 5:18
5. Fear – What I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3
6. Lying – The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful. Prov. 12:22
7. Obedience – Children obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Col. 3:2
8. Doesn't want to sing – Sing to Him, sing praise to Him. Psalm 105:2

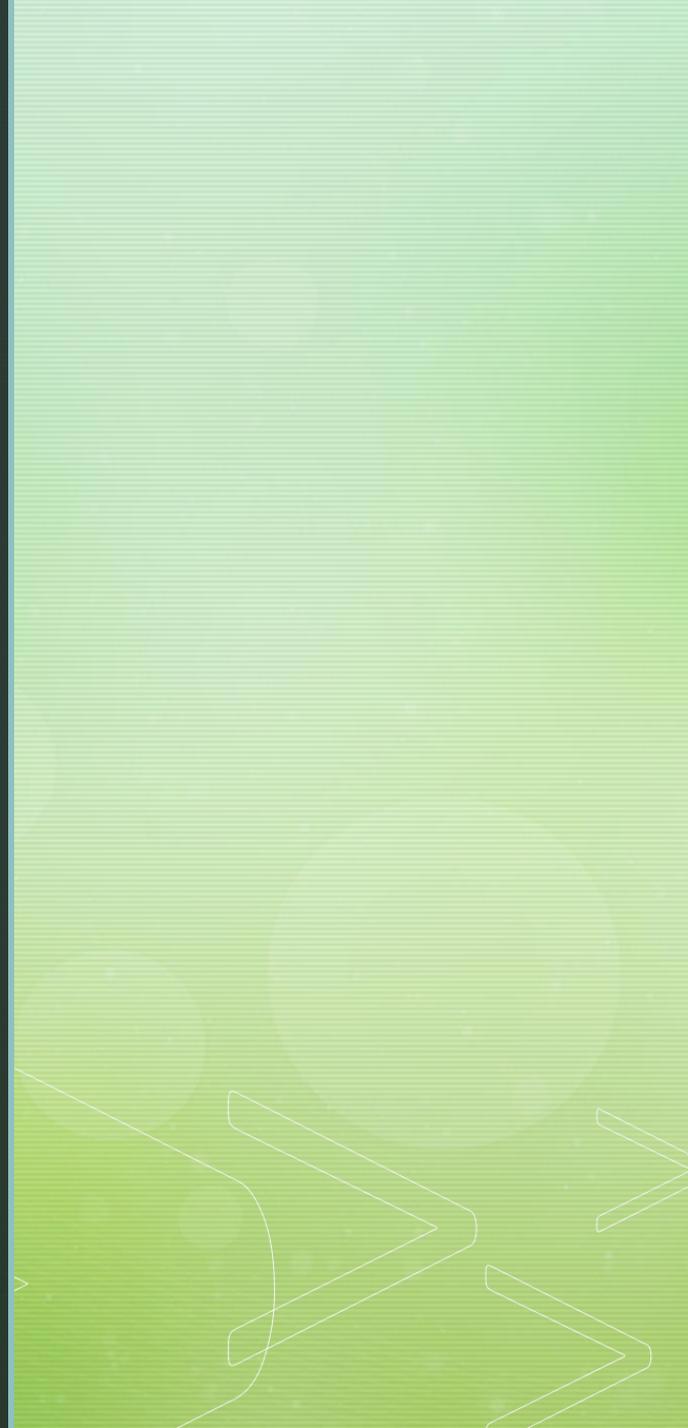
Closing:

1. Set a goal for yourself.
2. Pick two teaching techniques you want to learn.
3. Practice using them, write them in your lesson plan.
4. Next , pick two more.
5. Never stop learning.

You can give a man
a fish and
He can eat for a day.



Teach a man to fish and
He can eat for a lifetime.



All transitions songs are
from the CD:



Songs and Chants for
Antsy Pants

www.kathiehillmusic.com