



### "Teacher Tips"

(Suggestions for using Chip Richter's songs in your classroom)

**"Hey There" (Gross Motor, Counting, Circle Time)** This is a great song to use at Circle Time as everyone comes to the rug. Routine, while sometimes boring for adults, can be comforting for children. Starting each school day with this song will bring your class together and allow them to step into the familiar, safe place that is your classroom.

Students will get their wiggles out as they clap their hands, say hello and shake hands. It also provides students with a chance to count as they find "five" people to shake hands. You may want to change this up each day by changing the number of people they greet with a handshake or see how many than can find in the amount of time it takes to sing the chorus.

**"Jammy Day" (Gross Motor, Special Event)** This song is all about a favorite day for students and teachers... a SNOW DAY! It's also a great song to play during your class pajama day! Many teachers have told me they like to have a "Jammin' in my Jammies Day" sometime in January, when the holidays have passed, the days are cold and usually spent indoors. They invite children to wear their favorite jammies to school, serve cocoa and cookies for snack, and have a dance party to "Jammy Day" during gross motor time.

**"Member of the Family" (Circle Time, Listening Skills, Special Event)** This song is kind of like a riddle. It is also a great song to play during a family themed week. During a small group time or circle time, you can hold a discussion about family members. Ask the children about the various members of their families. Then, tell the class or group that you are going to play a song called "Member of the Family" and that it's a lot like a riddle. Tell them they have to listen close for clues about the mysterious member of the family I'm singing about in the song. Can they guess it before the song is over? Great opportunity to practice those listening skills! When I perform this song "live" I'll ask children to raise their hand when they think they know who this song is

about but don't say it out loud so they don't give it away to someone still working out the riddle.

**"Riding My Bike" (Gross Motor, Listening Skills, Imagination, Identifying Right and Left)** This song is great to play as a gross motor activity. Your class will be encouraged to use their imaginations as they strap on their bike helmet and look right and left before taking off on their imaginary ride. Before you play the song tell the students they are about to go on an imaginary bike ride. Have them climb onto their bikes, then put on their helmets and don't forget to buckle them up. Let them know we will come to a Stop Sign on this bike ride and we'll all have to come to a complete stop and then look to the right and then to the left to make sure it's safe. Have them test their brakes by having them slam on their brakes on the count of three. I also share with children that when I'm riding my bike down a hill really fast it almost feels like I'm flying and so when they hear me sing during the chorus "Feel like I can Fly" to pretend they are flying too.

**"Who's Side" (Gross Motor, Listening Skills)** This is an excellent song to play as a gross motor activity. Before you play the song, talk to your class about the importance of having good listening ears. To be a good learner, you have to be a good listener. Then, ask the class if they are good listeners by challenging them to a game of "Simon Says." If they are good at "Simon Says," then they will be great at singing "Who's Side."

**"Monster Under My Bed" (Imagination, Talking About Fears)** This is a funny song about a boy who thinks there's a monster under his bed. This song is not about Monsters, but it *is* about imaginations and how our imaginations can sometimes run away with us. It's an excellent song to introduce a discussion about dealing with "fears" and what to do with those fears. It's also a good song to use to talk about imaginations and how our imaginations are useful to help us be creative but that sometime we need to be careful not to let our imaginations "run away" and scare us. Finally you'll notice this is also a funny song and has some lines that kids will giggle at. I wanted this song to have a very happy, light and up tempo feel to kind of chase away the fears that come with things like monsters and those scary imaginary thoughts.

**"The Ice Cream Song" (Special Event, Letter "I")** This is fun anytime of the year, but it is especially fun to sing during an ice-cream party for letter "I" or at the end of the school year, kick off to summer celebration. I close every concert with this song because it's such a "Crowd Pleaser". I wonder sometime how many gallons of Ice Cream have been consumed after my shows over the years by Families leaving my concert with the thought of ice cream in their heads!

