



# Leading Children's Worship

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**S**inging has been a part of worship since Old Testament times. God has given music to the church to help us participate, to let us have some activity, and to learn. Also music gives us the sense of joy that is part of all praise and worship.

To be suitable for children's worship services, songs should:

1. have a singable tune,
2. have a specific purpose,
3. be thematic, and
4. be varied.

## Dos and Don'ts of Children's Worship

▼ **Don't** use music as a time killer (it cheapens the worship experience).

▼ **Do** use visuals, such as poster board and transparencies.

▼ **Do** use songs with words and concepts that children will easily understand.

If you do not have talented musicians to assist, you can make a band out of no band.

You will need:

- ▼ a cassette tape player
- ▼ music tapes
- ▼ visuals (transparency or poster board)

Build a library of children's music. Children's worship cassette tapes come in three basic forms. One kind has words and music on side one and music only on side two. Another tape mode is known as "split-track." The stereo cassette has voices on the right channel control and



the music on the left control or vice versa. The third type of children's worship cassette is words and music on both sides (listening cassettes). These are for preservice, puppet songs, or other specific uses.

The cassettes are cued and ready for each service. This allows you to flow without dead spots, as if you had actual musicians in your service. You should know your music very well so you can lead with the tape as accompaniment rather than letting the tape lead you.

## The Flow

Generally the flow of children's worship should be fast, lively, action songs first. Follow with medium-paced songs and conclude with slow worship songs.

## The Focus

To emphasize the focus or theme for the day, your selection of music needs to be thematic and inspirational. Ask God to guide you to the songs that will minister to the kids in your service and also make the point you are trying to get across.

## The Function

Children sing action and medium-paced songs standing up. However, it has been my experience that children worship better sitting down. We usually ask them to close their eyes while worshipping. A worshipful atmosphere can be destroyed by someone losing his or her balance. If possible, dim the lights a little. This gives a quieter feeling. Enlist several children as worship backup singers, and they can encourage others to be expressive in worship.

