Learn the Song

* **Rhythm Sticks** – Use a pattern to follow the tune with rhythm sticks. Add a challenge pattern for senior primary.
* **Envelope Verses** – Break the song into phrases or verses. Create separate word strips and hand each group an envelope with their phrase. Let them try to unscramble it. Then, they’ll sing their “part” when the time comes in the song. Shuffle the envelopes to another group until each group has a turn.
* **Around the World –** Have a group of kids stand in a circle. The first child says the first word of the song and around the circle through the entire song. If someone misses the word, they sit down. If you get down to the last person or the end of the song, then sing the song aloud. Start another round with a new group of kids.
* **Cups in a Row –** One word from the song on each cup. Have two kids come up trying to line up the song in the right order while you sing.
* **Swat Team –** Each team has a colored fly swatter. Words are lined up on the board. The rest of the children will know what the secret word is. They will skip that word whenever it comes up in the song. Both swatters will try to swat the secret word first.
* **Secret Words** – Give a secret word or phrase to the teachers. They each have a different action or phrase to say when their word is spoken or sung. Like clap or stand up or cough. Kids can try to guess the secret words at the end of singing time.
* **Song Scramble –** Cut the song into strips of lines from the song. Let one child try to put the song in order before you finish singing aloud. Or, have two children race to unscramble the song.
* **Silly Conductor –** Have a variety of conducting wands to pick from. Let a child lead the song with a silly wand.
* **Silly Hat Singing –** Whichever class sings the loudest, their teacher gets to wear the silly hat!
* **String in a Can –** Prepare different lengths of string in 3 colors – blue for boys, pink for girls, green for everyone. Then tie them together alternating parts and roll up the ball. Or, green – sing, yellow – hum, and red – stop.
* **Pass an Object –** Pass an object from child to child until the music pauses, then the child guesses the next word.
* **Echo Puppet –** Have a hand puppet and have it ask the children if you’d like to echo me. Repeat the verses.
* **UNO the Words –** Break the song or verse into 4 colored posters for the 4 Uno colors. Use an uno deck cards and fan out the cards and let a child pick. The cards represent:
  + **1 –** Sing the verse one time
  + **2 –** Sing the verse twice
  + **Skip –** Remove a phrase/picture from the poster
  + **Reverse –** Face the back of the primary room to sing
  + **Draw Two** – Pick 2 opposing ways to sing the song (boys/girls, stand up/sit) alternate
  + **Wild** – Choose a color and a wild way to sing it
  + **Wild Draw Four** – Sing all 4 phrases in a wild way!

Senior Primary Ideas

* **Write Your Own Song** – Challenge the senior primary to write their own simple 2-line song to sing in the primary program. Give them a topic or prompt and break them into groups to brainstorm ideas.
* **Teach a song in Sign Language**
* **Use the Scriptures –** Incorporate the scriptures into your lessons or games.
* **Class Solo –** Have a specific song for each of the older classes that they can practice. Then, they can sing it as a class for the program.
* **Learn the Harmony –** Teach the older kids the harmony part to sing in the program.
* **Play Different Versions of the Song –** Play a variety of compositions of the song as an introduction.

Review the Song

* **Hide the Note** – Sing quietly and louder until they find the hidden music note. Collect all notes and let the kids add them to the board on a staff. Let the pianist try to play their made up tune.
* **Who’s Missing** – One child leaves the room. Another child hides behind the piano. The first child returns and stands up front during the song. They then try to guess who is missing. If they get it right they get to pick the next seeker. If they get it wrong, the hider gets to be the next seeker.
* **Something’s Different, Sister \_\_\_** - Bring a few items to change your appearance (lipstick, shoes, jacket, jewelry, hair accessories, etc. Tell the children to memorize everything about you. Step into the hallway to change something about your appearance. Children can guess at the end of the song what you changed.
* **Heads up 3 up** – Have 3 children come up to the front. All the other kids bow their heads and stick their thumbs up. The 3 go around the room while everyone else sings and choose one child each. At the end of the song, those selected try to guess which child picked them. If they get it right, they get to be the next picker.
* **Tower of Cups –** Let one child try to stack as many cups as they can during the song. They can keep trying until the song ends.
* **4 Corners –** One child will be blindfolded. All the primary goes to different corners of the room. At the end of the song, the blindfolded child will point to the corner that was the quietest. Then, the room will shuffle and even out around the corners. Play continues until there is a winner with one child left.
* **Mini Golf –** Set up a golf track. Sing as far as the ball has rolled. A hole in one is sing the whole song! Use tape to mark distance for first verse, 2nd, etc.
* **Basketball –** If the shot is made, they pick the song. If they miss, review the song you’re working on.
* **Human Spinner –** Have 6 options on the floor – 1st verse, 2nd verse, Chorus Only... Spin a helper until they stop.

Holiday Games

* **Easter Egg Hunt** – Hide eggs with the songs tucked inside. When one is found, that is the song you’ll sing. Add the found eggs to an Easter basket.
* **Musical Mittens** – Hang 8 different colorful mittens on a line. Each has a song tucked inside. Let the child that picks help lead and wear the mitten.

Mix of Songs

* **Guessing Bag –** Put objects that represent words in the song into a bag. Let different children draw one out and guess what word it represents. Have them stand in order of the words of the song.
* **Doughnut Time –** Color (16) 7” doughnuts. Each one with a different fun patterns or colors. Each one has a different song on the back. Fill a donut box to award the primary with a donut hole after singing time.
* **Sing or Dare** – Make two jars with strips of paper with ways to sing in the Sing pile and dares in the other pile.
* **Angry Birds** – Write songs on the back of brick shaped rectangles. Make Angry Birds pigs. Ball up a piece of paper with a way to sing on it to use as ammo. Let the kids help arrange the pieces on the board however they’d like. Pick volunteers to toss the paper ball at the board to pick the song. If they hit a brick, sing the song on the back of the rectangle. If they hit a pig, they get to choose the song.
* **Minecraft** – Create 20 square Minecraft ground blocks. Write a song or a verse on the back of each one. Assemble the blocks on top of a picture. Create a paper pick axe. Let the kids come up to “pick” one of the blocks and sing the song on back. Try to have them guess the picture bel
* **First Letter Puzzle** – Write the first letter of every word in the song on a sheet of paper. Then write out the song titles. Have the kids try to guess which ones match the words they know.
* **Color Dice** – Write the words in different colors. Roll a colored dice to choose which words they should sing. This is a fun way to mix up the song each time.
* **Footsteps** – Hide footstep prints all around the room or under the chairs. Have children find the footprints and try to assemble them in the right order. Lead a path with the steps to Christ.
* **Name That Tune** – Roll a dice (or 2) to determine how many notes are played. Pick out a song slip from a basket and hand it to the pianist to play.
* **Fishing** – Name different songs on the back of little fish. Let the kids fish for the song to sing.
* **Climb the Stairs** – Roll the dice and have a character climb that many stairs. Sing the song for the stair they reached. Let the kids arrange the songs on the steps how they would like.
* **Stump the Chorister** – Child chooses a question about one of the songs you’ve been working on. If they get it right, you add a silly clothing article. If they get it wrong, they add a clothing item.
* **Pop the Balloons** – Song title or first line in a balloon. Pop the balloon to pick a song, then you sing it.
* **Skittles Challenge** – Child picks and eats a single skittle. They try to guess what color it was. If they’re right, they pick a favorite song. If they miss, chorister picks the song.
* **Silent Singer** – Have a teacher pick one child to be the designated “silent singer”. Another child will roam the room during the song trying to identify the silent singer.
* **Play-Doh Pictionary -**  Songs listed at the bottom of the play-doh tubs. Whisper a word from the song to the child that picked the play-doh. They can try to make the shape with the play-doh while the song is going. Then the rest of the class can try to guess what the word was at the end of the song.
* **Pool Noodle Marble Race –** Cut 2 pool noodles to make a marble track. Write song numbers on the marbles and let kids pick a marble to race. The winning marble is the song you sing.
* **Pass the Parcel –** Wrap a small treat in layers and layers of tissue paper. Each layer can say a different song or a different way to sing if you need to repeat a song. When the last layer is unwrapped, kids get to share the treats.
* **Memory Match –** Colorful number squares 1-20. Laminate and use a dry erase marker to add the song titles to the back. Once a match is found, you’ll sing that song.
* **Tic-Tac-Toe –** Have a folder with X’s and O’s and the number squares 1-9. Use post-in notes to name songs for each square they might pick or trivia questions relating to the songs.
* **Punch Board –** Create a punch board or top cups with tissue paper and secure with rubber bands. Songs inside.
* **Primary Cranium –** “Notable Notes” Play a few notes. “Back to the Drawing Board” draw or sculpt a concept from the song. “Who Am I?” Clues about the person/concept. “Up, Down, and All Around” – wiggle songs.