

Sing With Me!

What If I Can't Sing Very Well?

Many people say they can't sing, when what they are really admitting is that they don't sing very well. If you like to sing along with tunes on the radio or sing in the shower, all you need is a little practice! Practice is the key to your singing potential. YOU CAN DO IT!!!

Singing is like any other hobby or sport – you have to PRACTICE in order to train your vocal chords and your brain to be the best they can be! You also need to remember that not everyone is a soloist. There are great singers who are only great when combined with other voices, as proven in many choruses around the world.

The two main goals when practicing is to **match a pitch** and to **stay in tune**. You've heard scary renditions of "Happy Birthday" by wait staffs in local restaurants. Many times, this is simply because they started off singing in the wrong key, forcing some singers to sing too low or too high for their voice range.

Getting started is easy. When you are helping children learn to sing along with favorite songs, at first all you need to do is play the CD for them and let them sing along with you and the recorded song. Once you listen to the CD yourself and practice by learning the tunes and the words, you will eventually be able to lead the songs on your own. It does take practice to know what note range to start the songs on, but when you practice, you will get better.

TIPS TO LEARNING HOW TO SING BETTER:

1. Get a children's CD, such as the "Sing With Me" Pre-School Bible Songs. This has many songs you can use with the kids in your classes, as well as your own kids and grandkids!
2. Pick out the first 5 songs on the CD to focus on. Once you learn the first 5, then go on to the next 5. Review the songs from the beginning before you start a new section of 5 songs.
3. Practice singing with the CD and turn up the volume so the song is loud. As you progress, lower the volume to increase your confidence!
4. To help you listen better and try to match pitch with the songs being sung, try these CD suggestions: "Do-Re-Mi" from the Sound of Music Soundtrack, Disney Silly Songs and other children's song CD's, and the Wii American Idol game to help you increase your ability to stay on pitch (other similar games are available for Xbox and other manufacturers). If you want practice warming up your voice and doing vocal exercises, get the "Sing, Baby Sing" CD, which is available at the class or on my website at www.SingWithMe.biz

Remember when you're leading songs for kids, they need to be pitched slightly higher than adults would sing them. This helps the kids sing in the range most comfortable for them, and they will sing with more confidence!