

It's nearly Christmas! Which means we are bringing back our festive tune "The Star Was Bright".

The Star was Bright is a great song for preschool and nursery children. In four simple verses plus a chorus it creates a mini show piece, linking to the nativity story.

We have sung this song in many schools and all of the class are able to take part. Divided into four sections, each section can represent the characters either by dressing up and/or playing a percussion instrument, everyone can sing along! (Including the audience).

Costumes - animals are optional

- Stars Tinsel and star outfits for the stars
- Shepherds Tea towels or pieces of material with elastic head bands
- Sheep masks or cream woolly hats
- Kings cardboard decorated crowns a strip of cardboard with slots at the end to allow for difference size heads
- Camels masks
- Mary and Joseph (we have also dressed up several Mary and Josephs are playing the instruments)
- Baby Jesus doll to rock

Percussion Instruments

- Stars triangles or Indian bells
- Shepherds jingle bells
- Kings/camels claves, tulip blocks or coconut shells
- Rocking baby maracas, shakers

Singing the Song with actions

- 1. Sing the song through **once with the actions as prompts**.
- 2. Divide the children into **4 groups stars, shepherds, kings and Mary and Joseph.** Have them all sitting down and when it is their verse, that group stands up and does the actions with all the others joining in.
- 3. **Sing the song with props and percussion** this is usually at the next lesson depending on time and the age/concentration of the children.



Singing the song with Props and Percussion

- 1. **Divide the children** into rough groups of four **stars, shepherds, kings and Mary and Joseph.** Some children can dress up and some play percussion instruments. This can be determined by placing the clothes and instruments at each section and the children choosing what they would like. Instruments or costumes can be added or taken away as necessary.
- 2. Having sung through the song with just the actions, **the children can now act out the song in costume and with percussion** accompaniment. (We practise the actions first and give out the percussion with the costumes).
- 3. The children sit in their different groups and as their verse and/or chorus is sung they stand up and either play the instruments or act out their part while all other children can sing along.

At the end when Mary rocks the baby and everyone starts humming, the children can gather round to create a lovely nativity scene to finish!

Additional thoughts

You might want to adapt the sitting down/standing up depending on if the children are able to leave the instruments on the floor when they are not playing. They might all stand with the instruments on the floor and step forward when it is their turn. But if you have done some warm up games with stopping and starting playing, most of the children might be able to keep their instruments quiet.

As you can see, this song gives you plenty of opportunity to add your own creative ideas, but is a great foundation to build on.

We would recommend that you sing this song without a backing track so that you can go at the pace of the children. If someone is able to accompany you live to go at the pace of the children then all the better. Please contact admin@piccolomusic.co.uk if you would like the sheet music.

Link to All Star was Bright Resources

<u>Click Here</u>



Lyrics - (sung to the tune of The Wise Man built his house upon the rock)

The star was bright in the silent night. Shhh... The star was bright in the silent night. Shhh... The star was bright in the silent night. When the baby Jesus was born

The shepherds in the field were watching the sheep. Baa... The shepherds in the field were watching the sheep. Baa... The shepherds in the field were watching the sheep. Baa... When the baby Jesus was born

The star was bright in the silent night. Shhh... The star was bright in the silent night. Shhh... The star was bright in the silent night. When the baby Jesus was born

The three Kings rode on camels through the night. Humph... The three Kings rode on camels through the night. Humph... The three Kings rode on camels through the night. Humph... When the baby Jesus was born

The star was bright in the silent night. Shhh... The star was bright in the silent night. Shhh... The star was bright in the silent night. When the baby Jesus was born

Mary had a baby and she sang a lullaby Mmmmmmmmmmm Mmmmmmmmmmm When the baby Jesus was born

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