

22 GAMES

For Teaching Music Facts

by JoAnn Butler

One of the best ways to teach music facts to our choir members is through the use of music games. Children will learn the most complicated of rules in order to be able to play a game, if the games are fun.

to prepare 5 or 6 sheets so that each child in the activity can have one of his own. The pictures need not all be alike, just so they are descriptive of the terms.

Make your cards like this:

The only problem with this kind of teaching is that the children like the games so much that they want to spend the entire choir time playing them. So be sure to set a time limit – NEVER over a third of the choir rehearsal time – so that you'll have time in the rehearsal to point out the facts they have learned in the music they are singing. Put the children in groups of 4 to 6 to play the activities. It is helpful to have a teacher in every group. Occasionally you may wish to plan a party for your choir in which you will just play the games. Just "merry-go-round" them from group to group.

To begin this type teaching, gather a few of your workers after you have bought the necessary materials, and spend a day together making these 22 games. Buy some large brown envelopes and locate a box for them. File the games in the envelopes and stand them up in the box. Write the name of the game on the top of the envelope. Now you have a whole game library at your fingertips!

GAME 1

What are Solos and Ensembles?

Prepare a piece of poster board the size of a sheet of paper. Using felt markers, make a column of words and a column of pictures. Laminate it. The children will match the pictures with the terms which describe them. Obtain the pictures from catalogs, music magazines, and choir robe catalogs. You may want

