

# GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING CHILDREN'S MUSIC

## Pitch-level Conducting

Pitch-level conducting (pitch refers to how high or low a note sounds) is most useful when teaching a new song to children. It shows the direction the notes take in the melody and also teaches the rhythm of the song.

The best hand position for this type of conducting is a horizontal position, palm down. To conduct, move your hand up when the pitch ascends and down when the pitch descends.



When notes are repeated on the same pitch, keep your hand at the same level but bounce it forward to emphasize the rhythm of each of the melody notes.

When children have learned the song and are singing it with confidence, you may replace pitch-level conducting with standard beat patterns if desired.

## Teaching the Music

Usually music for children should be chosen from the *Children's Songbook* or, on appropriate occasions, from the hymn-book. When teaching music to children, do the following:

1. Memorize the words and music before teaching the song to the children.
2. Teach children to sing freely with a clear tone. Avoid loud, strained singing.
3. Teach new music by letting the children hear how the song goes several times before they sing it.
4. Help the children memorize the song as quickly as possible.
5. Keep the children's interest by selecting different types of songs. Help them learn the songs by asking questions about the words and music; occasionally, actions may be used to illustrate the messages.

