

Leading a singing session

Hints and tips

Praise

Singing should be an activity that everyone can participate in and, when leading a singing session, every member of the group should be valued, regardless of their natural talent/ability. Attention should be given to all. It is also vital to give praise to good and enthusiastic singers, but avoid showing favouritism to strong individuals.

Management

Start all singing sessions with a positive greeting and set clear expectations. If you are starting a singing session with a new group that is not familiar with you and your way of working, always set the tone with some ground rules before starting.

Organisation

Use a variety of strategies to group learners, for example, favourite colour/football team/age/month of birth. Experiment with mixing boys and girls. Some boy/girl competitiveness is healthy, but do not overemphasise this, as it could give negative results. Group size will always vary according to the nature of the song.

Space

Having an open space to sing in is important; however, this is not always possible or straightforward. The main aim is to make the most of the available space and to provide opportunities for learners to stand or sit depending on the nature of the task/activity.

Resources

As well as considering how to make best use of the available space, you will also need to consider the location of:

- instruments
- audio equipment
- computers.

If possible, you should vary your singing session to provide opportunities to sing with instruments, with backing tracks, and unaccompanied.

Making effective use of other adults

During singing sessions you may receive support from staff and other adults, and it is important that you make the most of the support available.

For more detailed information on leading a singing session, refer to Part 3 (pages 24–30) of the *CânSing Toolkit*.