

Drake Music Accessible Resources

Drake Music have created accessible singing resources for a number of songs from the Sing Up Song Bank, which are useful for children with physical impairments, communication difficulties and special needs.

The Sing Up tagline – *help kids find their voice* – is particularly appropriate for disabled children. Whatever their *voice*, all children have the potential to be involved in singing. Some children sing in the traditional sense, some children sign, some use an electronic communication aid such as a Voice Output Communication Aid (VOCA), and some don't verbalise but they do make sounds. Imagine all of these children singing the same songs together, perhaps accompanied by other children, teachers and parents playing instruments!

There are two kinds of these accessible singing resources – electronic communication aid resources for disabled children, plus information and ideas documents for the young leaders or adults who will be leading the singing sessions.

- Electronic communication aid resources:
 - Singing set-ups for Clicker software that can be 'sung' from a computer using a touch-screen, switches, a mouse or any other appropriate means of control.
 - Singing set-ups for a range of different VOCAs. If you're not sure what a VOCA is, think of the device that Professor Stephen Hawking uses to communicate.

We've created Clicker and VOCA set-ups because, while we know how empowering communication aids can be for children with communication difficulties, we also understand that it's often difficult to find time to make these kinds of electronic resources from scratch – we've done nearly all the hard work for you.

Communication aids can be configured for access (including switch access) in a number of different ways whether you are controlling it using a touch-screen, mouse, joystick, trackball, or switches. We've intentionally set up each song slightly differently to give you an idea of the possibilities, but please modify and adapt the set-ups to more fully meet your children's needs.

- Information and ideas – documents:
 - The Drake Music Top tips includes helpful information on how to run accessible singing sessions.
 - Each song also comes with an page activity sheet containing ideas that relate directly to that particular song. You'll find ideas for accessible singing, different singing session scenarios and some top tips. There is also an explanation of the layout of the electronic communication aid for each song along with a description of the different vocal options available when using assistive technology.

To get an idea of how the resources can be used, you might like to watch the Drake Music/Sing Up film at: bit.ly/SingUp-DrakeMusic

All 15 of the songs included in this pack (as well as a number of other songs with accessible singing resources) are available to download from the Sing Up Song Bank. If you don't already know the songs, familiarise yourself with them before your singing session by listening to the audio tracks.

Further information: Clicker

Our singing resources work in either Clicker 5 or Clicker 6. If you don't yet have Clicker, it's available to buy from www.cricksoft.com/uk

- Clicker 5:
The user guide that comes with Clicker (both paper and PDF versions) is fairly straightforward. If you want to modify any of the resources we've made, read the 'Editing Clicker Grids' and 'Changing Special Access options' sections. For more help, try the 'Quick Tour' (found under the Help menu in Clicker) – it's an on-screen interactive tutorial that takes you through the main features step-by-step.
- Clicker 6:
The Help menu is full of useful information. To find out how to edit the resources we have created, read the Help menu sections entitled 'Editing Clicker Sets', 'Object Properties', and 'Using Pictures, Sound and Video'.

Crick Software run a range of free training including seminars, webinars and CPD for Clicker 6. The website also features a downloadable PDF *The Clicker 5 Guide*. Other organisations around the country also run Clicker training sessions. You could ask the IT co-ordinator at your school to find out when and where, for example, PCAS run regular sessions in Bristol – see www.pcas.claremont.bristol.sch.uk for more details.

Further information: VOCAs

VOCA stands for Voice Output Communication Aid. The VOCA resources connected with Sing Up songs were made in partnership with Drake Music, PCAS (Bristol), Techcess and Sensory Software. They were created for use with the following:

- Dynvaux V/V Max (see <http://uk.dynavoxtech.com/default.aspx>)
- Mind Express 3 & 4 (see <http://www.techcess.co.uk/>)
- The Grid 2 (see <http://www.sensorysoftware.com/>)

The resources can also be easily adapted for BIGmack, One-step and other more 'lo-tech' switch access devices.