

instruments to the beat of the music. Oftentimes, we'll all just count the rhythm or beat to the music as we play the rhythm sticks, cymbals & triangle for example, counting one, two, three, four. Next, we'll sing the song again & try to play rhythm instruments along as we sing. This way the children can definitely hear when they're not really playing to the beat & are a bit off & will then try to play all together in unison & eventually with a practise will be able to both sing & play a rhythm instrument to a very simple chorus such as the "B-I-B-L-E" or "The Wise man built His House Upon a Rock." Of course, the children will want to dance or March to many happy tunes, so this we take turns doing also. However, attempting to both sing & march & play an instrument is something that has to be practiced in order to be done in a pleasant way & really sound nice.

**16. THE CHILDREN CAN OFTEN HEAR MORE CLEARLY JUST EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE PLAYING IF YOU POINT TO ONE CHILD AT A TIME, IN TURN, TO BEGIN PLAYING** the song as you sing it. On the next refrain, point to the second child who will join in as well with his or her musical instrument without singing. Then point to the third child, for example, & have him or her join in as well so that all three instruments begin playing at different times, but joined together in time to the music. Once the basic beat has been repeated several times, you may find the children are singing much better & also have learned to sort of appreciate the song in a new way, putting more into it!

**17. SO THERE'S JUST A BIT OF BACKGROUND ON HOW WE'VE EMPHASISED RHYTHM, INSTRUMENTS & SINGING TO A PROPER BEAT,** & basic music appreciation at a young age. Singing with children will be covered later in this chapter, which of course should be done always in the right pitch & on key.



Small, portable "Bontempi"-brand organ, battery operated.

**[ORGAN]**

**18. SOON AFTER DAVID'S SIXTH BIRTHDAY, MARIA GAVE HIM A BOOK CALLED "THE MUSICAL PEOPLE",** by L. Caster, by Chappell Music Ltd., London, a fun, highly-illustrated book for learning more about written music: Treble & bass clefs, Middle C, written music on the 5-lined musical staff, time signatures etc.

**19. WE LEARNED MORE EXTENSIVELY ABOUT WRITTEN MUSIC WHILE LEARNING TO PLAY A SMALL PORTABLE ORGAN** (battery-operated that David's parents gave him for his sixth birthday. While seated comfortably at a low table at their elbow's height for easier reach & playing, David & David could take turns at the 2-octave keyboard, playing up & down the scales, beginning at Middle C. We called the fingers by numbers (thumbly, I & wee-man, 5), to learn to play very simple songs. While practised playing on a "mock-up" keyboard made on white cardboard, with black and white keys drawn in!

**20. INITIALLY THEY LEARNED TO PLACE ALL TEN FINGERS ON THE KEYBOARD WITH BOTH THUMBS ON MIDDLE C--** just rest the fingers there "lightly"--as if butterflies had gently "lighted" there, ready to play. Right thumbly, or "1", begins on Middle C to begin most of our simple tunes. So far, we've only learned to play with the right hand.)

**21. TRY THIS LITTLE SONG ON A KEYBOARD** beginning at Middle C, called "Jesus Loves Our Praise":

Jesus - loves - our - praise  
(1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5)

So - let's - praise - the - Lord!  
(5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1)

**22. THE CHILDREN MAY LIKE TO MAKE UP SIMPLE VERSES,** i.e. "Prayer - is - powerful", (repeat) or use 5-letter spelling words: j-e-s-u-s, D-a-v-i-d, h-a-p-p-y.

Or try this tune called "Tugboat":  
Putt - Putt - Putt-Putt-Putt-Putt:  
(1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1)

Goes - the - lit - tle - tug - boat  
(1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 2)

Putt - Putt - Putt-Putt-Putt-Putt:  
(1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1)

On - the - same - old - note!  
(1 - 2 - 3 - 2 - 1)

**[SINGING]**

**23. LET'S GET ON WITH THE EXTREMELY HELPFUL LESSONS DAD HAS TAUGHT US ON**



The children's first public witness singing at our neighbour's home, Christmas '80!

**[TEACHING CHILDREN TO SING:]** Obviously, we were in great need of his help, for even though we enjoyed music & singing for Jesus so very much, I wasn't very mindful that the children cannot always sing on whatever key I happen to choose to pitch a song in when not led by the organ or guitar! And even when led by guitar, they often sang off-key on certain songs, nor could we find the right pitch to lead them to sing in! I'd totally overlooked volume as an actual aid to singing--David to always sang rather quietly. Often when trying to follow Dad in a hymn of praise at the dinner table, for example, he could only be faintly heard & still be off-key, not able to easily follow others in singing.

**24. IN NOVEMBER 1980 DAVID BEGAN HAVING REGULAR GUITAR LESSONS** on our dear helper Richard, (we'll share more on this later on), but of course having to sing along with the songs he was learning to play again emphasised the problem area in

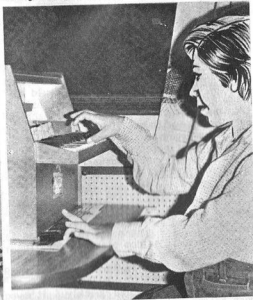


Kids sing "Time to be Happy" with Faithy! -- August '79!

our children's voices of being able to sing consistently on-key & at the right pitch!  
**25. DAD SAID WHEN FAITHY VISITED OUR HOME FOR FAMILY COMMUNION, PRAISE & FELLOWSHIP,** "I always sing baritone in the key of C, but that's always lower than usual, with children you need to pitch your songs high enough for them to sing them. They can't sing low, they sing soprano. Kids always need a higher pitch." After hearing David's first guitar recital on video, Maria spoke up in great concern for not only our children's voices here in our Home, but also yours!

**26. "I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT SO MANY OF OUR KIDS' SINGING, BUT IT'S JUST OFF!** Poor little David, it's just pitiful! Sara needs to work with them on the scales & use the organ with their singing. Other Family children sing all the time on the streets & all, but can't really sing at all, & many children we've heard on video just don't sound good! You can certainly tell from most of the videos we've seen that so many of our kids sing off-key!" God bless Maria, she's always so attentive to needy areas & careful to point out suggestions & tips to help us in every way!

**27. SHE'D CAUTIONED US PRIOR TO THIS AGAINST USING ANY TINNY OR CHEAP, BAD-SOUNDING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS & to stop using a small cheap, toy piano that we**



David practises on our first (toy) piano. May 1980