

had for over a year that eventually became warped & totally out of tune! It's important to invest in a good instrument because your child will learn by what he hears as he progresses. A poor instrument provides poor "feedback", a second-hand instrument may work fine if tone quality is good.

28. I'D TRIED A FEW IDEAS TO TRY TO HELP THE CHILDREN SING THEIR "PROGRAM SONGS"--holding the first note of the song a little while on the piano, before they joined in singing the first note of the song, & this actually seemed to help a bit, but regardless, they were sometimes completely off in singing & I sometimes find the lasting solution that would help them to always sing on-key & follow more easily. "You bring your little organ to dinner one night," Dad said "& I'll give you all a voice lesson!"

29. HALLELUJAH! GRANDPA TO THE RESCUE! Here's what you've all been waiting for:

**DAD'S LESSON ON TEACHING CHILDREN TO SING! --11/2/81**

30. "KIDS NEARLY ALWAYS SING IN THE KEY OF C, OR USUALLY, BUT MOST SONGS ARE USUALLY PITCHED TOO HIGH OR TOO LOW. When Sara sang on video, 'He's Got the Whole World In His Hands', to lead the kids, she sang too high, about one octave too high! You're pitching their songs out of their range, therefore, they sing out of tune or off-key, in the wrong range!

31. "WE NEED TO LEARN TO TEST THE KIDS' VOCAL RANGE SO YOU'LL KNOW JUST HOW HIGH OR LOW YOU CAN SING FOR THEM. I had former voice training so I knew how to range my kids' voices once I saw they could sing. Even driving along, I would test them on their vocal range, & have each one practise with me, 'Do-De-Mi', etc. Using the organ or a pitchpipe, see what their highest notes are & their lowest notes & see if your songs are within the children's range.--It's a matter of their vocal range.

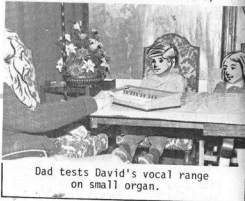
32. "YOU SEE, THE GUITAR IS PROBABLY NOT A STRONG ENOUGH MELODY--IT'S AN ACCOMPANIMENT INSTRUMENT, but does not play a strong enough lead. The guitar was made for accompaniment, it seldom plays melody. The singer sings the melody while the guitar plays accompaniment in harmony chords. 33. "CHILDREN USUALLY FOLLOW A STRONG LEAD VOICE, they imitate quickly & it's much better if you're trying to teach, if they can just hear a good, strong lead voice. They need to hear a lead voice

clearly, without others singing. Sara, you usually have a rather low voice. I probably sing too low for the children too sometimes. I guess we have almost the poorest bunch of singers in this family here than almost any I know! You all lack that strong lead & when Sara sings along with the others, she can nearly get off key! Hardly any of our boys can sing on key, so if we're going to set the example for the children here, for God's sake, if you can't sing, don't sing at all when the children are trying to sing along!

34. "SARA SHOULD SILENCE ALL OTHERS & TAKE THE LEAD. You can sing well but you sing too softly. You need to drown out all the noise & just sing alone so the kids can follow you. Your sense of music is sufficient if you have no distraction, but all of our boys sing off & you can't let them mislead your singing. If you have an ear for music you can learn. It's partly a gift that God gives, an ear for music, & it's partly training. So you need a good, strong, loud lead--on tune! (The MMW "Children's Tape" is an excellent lead for learning!--Dad.)

35. "PICK CHILDREN'S SONGS WITH THE CLEAREST LEAD THAT THEY CAN IMITATE & FOLLOW BY HEARING. If you don't already have a strong lead, it's better to sing without the guitar. This way it's easier for them to learn the melody. You've got to pitch the songs in their range, not too high, or the children will try to drop down lower, but land somewhere in-between.

36. "NOW WE'LL PLAY THE SCALE HERE, STARTING AT C OR 'DO'. David, sit up nice & straight & you sing what I play: 'DO, DO, DO, RE, RE, RE, MI, MI, MI' etc."--(Dad plays the full scale this way with firm David singing alone, then Davida & then has me sing "DO-a Deer" song with the kids several times--from "Sound of Music".)



Dad tests David's vocal range on small organ.

37. "NOW YOU CORRECT HIM WHEN HE MAKES A MISTAKE, OR ELSE HE'LL THINK IT'S OK WHEN HE'S OFF. Try again." (Dad tries David on the bass notes). "Ok, David, you're able to carry a tune! He has a little difficulty singing lower than middle C or higher than about six notes above it; one octave is about average for a child."

38. "OUR CHILDREN, THANK GOD, WHEN YOU GIVE THEM THE NOTE 'DO' THEY CAN SING IT, so they're not tone deaf, they can follow a stay on key as long as the notes are in their range. Now use the same key to this organ to pitch them when they begin to sing, or get one of those pitchpipes." (Dad tests each child's vocal range several times.)

39. "NOW WHEN YOU GET TO THE HIGH END OF THE SCALE, YOU HAVE TO YELL TO HIT IT HARD." The high notes you must sing loudly! Davida sings the scale fine up until the very last DO--Reach for it, reach for it! She has a tendency to not meet those high notes.--Hit it real good & clear! It's much easier to sing 'la, la, la' on those high notes. Try it! (Dad starts each time at the bottom of the scale & plays up, then holds the high notes while each child takes turns singing.) "They need to sing the full scale, starting from the bottom every time & go up!"

40. (DAD LEADS DAVID TO SING A FULL OCTAVE.) "Songs don't always have such a wide range. He really only hits well six notes, C to A. It's harder on those high notes, & he's pretty in tune up 'til A. Lord, help us to sing with all of our might!" (Dad prays the kids will sing to the right tune & on key & tests them again on the musical scale.)

41. "IT TAKES STRENGTH TO HIT THE HIGH NOTES! You need might to hit those high ones--it takes hard work & practise, so work at it as hard as you can. And keep in his range, C to A. He's rather limited so it's best to find songs that fit his range. Be sure every song they sing is pitched in their range.

42. "SOME CHORUSES THEY CAN'T SING BECAUSE THEY JUST CAN'T HIT IT & IT SOUNDS OFF. The kids know they were off-key but they didn't know what they could do, because you pushed them beyond their range. They didn't find the right pitch because nobody was leading & the kids followed suit.

43. "IT'S HARD WORK, SINGING, & YOU'VE REALLY GOTTA PUSH IT! YOU'VE GOTTA YELL LOUD IN ORDER TO HIT IT--& hit it real clear! Put a lot ofumph behind it & push from clear down here at the bottom of your

chest. Right about at the bottom ribs there's a muscle called your diaphragm. If you practise & your diaphragm develops & all, you can sing lower!

44. "YOU KNOW WHAT A BIG ORGAN LOOKS LIKE? The organ pipes are round & the big round ones make the low sound, but soprano or high-tone pipes on the organ are high & tall & thinner." (Maria suggests we look for a good picture of an organ in a catalogue or encyclopedia to illustrate this point--Also that we show the children a picture of the diaphragm in a book.) "So you have to yell loud or you can't make it, you have to yell to hit those high notes!



Dad points out David's diaphragm.

45. "THE DIAPHRAGM IS ABOUT HERE, AT THE LEVEL OF YOUR BOTTOM RIBS. The diaphragm holds up the lungs, the heart, the liver, & esophagus & stomach, & one of the most important things it does is hold up your voice. The power to speak & sing actually comes from right down here. The Bible says, 'From out of your innermost parts flow rivers of living water.' Put your hand on your tummy & go 'Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha!' See, you can even see your hand move! That's where the power comes from & the sound or echo chamber is up here, in your chest on low notes, & nasal cavity.

46. "A REAL DO FROM YOUR DIAPHRAGM prevents the sound through your nose having that undesirable nasal twang. You have vocal chords up here to shape the sound & the 'wind' coming from your chest. When you sing up high, the vocal chords get tighter, & you let 'em hang loose & limp for low notes."

47. (DAD HAS NOW EACH ADULT SING THE "DO-RE-MI-FA-SO-DO") & hold it long & loud on "SO-O-O!" "Volume, Sara, you need more power in your singing, sing louder so you can lead the children. Kids can be plenty loud when they want to, but they need to put it to use for the Lord!