Title: Sing-a-long
Recommended for: 2-5 Year Olds

Objectives:

Children
• Receptive language
• Follows direction
• Engagement
• Positive mood

Adults
• Creativity
• Language
• Positive mood
• Communication

Materials Needed:

• Printed lyrics of songs familiar to children and elders, including those reflecting their cultures and traditions.
• Option: include a video with the sing-a-long lyrics at the bottom. If desired, use the iPad app 'sing fit.'

Methods:

Facilitator Preparation
1. Set up an area where the group can listen or watch a sing-a-long.
2. Prepare the songs (e.g. pull up the videos or lyrics).
   a. Option: the songs can be pre-selected by seniors or children.

Intergenerational Participants
1. Introduction – have the adults and children come together in a large group, sing the hello song.
2. Introduce the activity by explaining what a sing-a-long is.
3. Have the group discuss times when they like to sing.
4. Play one song and have the group sing-a-long.
   a. Option: Make the sing-a-long more difficult by asking the elders and children to sing different parts (e.g. pair them into IG groups and have one sing the verse and another sing the chorus).
5. Play the remaining songs and encourage the children and adults to sing-a-long! Participant pairs can take turns selecting the next song.
6. Clean up and sing the goodbye song.

Helpful Websites

• http://www.allmusic.com/album/100-sing-along-favorites-for-kids-mw0000697262
• http://www.seniorsentertainer.com/songs.html
• http://melodicmemories.com/wp/song-lyrics/

Special Considerations

• The facilitator may need to explain the different parts of a song for the group to sing different parts (e.g. verse, chorus, bridge).
• Children may not be able to read the lyrics if they are on a screen.
• Children and adults may practice the songs on their own before coming together.
Getting To Know You
• Discuss different songs they like.
• Discuss concerts (e.g. What are they? Have you ever been to a concert?).
• Discuss the different reasons why people listen to music (e.g. to relax, for celebrations, to get excited, to remember special times).

Encouraging Interaction
• Split up the larger group into smaller IG groups and have them practice different parts of the song.
• Have the elders and children take turns making up dance moves to go along with the song (e.g. hand movements to go with twinkle twinkle little star).
• Provide props to support movement and interaction – e.g., scarves or items reflecting song lyrics.

Extension Opportunities
• Have the group prepare a concert with songs for the rest of the children/seniors at the center.
• Record each other singing (video or audio) and incorporate into slideshows shared with groups.
• Write a poem or song lyrics together.
• Dancing activity (e.g. ballroom, Macarena, electric slide, chicken dance).