



## What is Junior Jivers?

Junior Jivers is a Christian music and movement class aimed at toddlers and preschoolers and their carers. Children at this stage enjoy movement and music, which provides a great opportunity for quality time together, learning and a whole lot of fun!

The format of Junior Jivers is designed to encourage each child in their physical, mental, social and spiritual development. Each week there is a structured programme based on a particular theme (e.g. Animals), where a leader directs the group's singing, dancing and discussion. Parents and carers are encouraged to interact with and assist their child(ren) during the session.

During each session a range of music is used, including nursery rhymes, Christian and secular songs. Different instruments are introduced (e.g. tapping sticks, egg shakers, drums) to build basic music skills as well as fine and gross motor skills.

A story relating to the week's theme is read during the session.

Because the concept comes from Australia, quite a few of the recommended songs are from there and aren't well known in the UK. They are, however, such great songs that we've decided to use them. Where the song is available on iTunes or Spotify you could buy it, learn it and use it, but there are some songs that aren't recorded. If you can't find a song online, take that song out and substitute another. Please feel free to modify the programme, to add in songs that you know on the themes, so it's easier for you to run and so it suits your style and your group.

## How best to run the programme

- Make your group explicitly Christian by teaching each theme from a Christian worldview and with prayer after each story time.
- Ask everyone to sign up for a term. This is important for two reasons: for evangelism, as you get to see the same families every week and you get to know them, and for the music time, as you get the same children each week who settle down, learn the songs and aren't disruptive.
- Charge a small termly fee. You might need to buy resources or pay for venue, and it gives adults a reason to come each week - if they've already paid it's a good incentive. What you charge depends entirely on your circumstances.



## The structure of each session

Before the session, create a masking tape circle on the floor big enough for all the children and carers to sit around it. All the singing is done on the circle.

- Standing up songs (9-10 mins)
- Sitting down songs (7-8 mins)
- Story time (5-10 mins) – invite the children to come and sit on the story mat in front of the leader.
- Activity time - alternating between instruments, parachute, scarves, drums etc. (5 mins)

## You will need

- A music player (e.g. MP3 player, mobile phone, tablet or computer)
- Good quality masking tape (that won't break when you try to make your circle, e.g. WHS or Lyreco)
- A "story mat" (use an old throw or cotton blanket)
- A small colourful scarf to hide children for two of the name songs
- Scarves (ask everyone you know to donate see through, floaty scarves they no longer wear and cut them up)
- A "treasure bag" to hide things in for some songs (e.g. Old Macdonald animals, transport toys)
- A collection of instruments like xylophones, shakers, tambourines, bells (ask for donations of toys people don't use any more)
- Bongo drums (take them apart to make two out of each set) - you only need one drum per four children as you pass the drums around the circle each time you sing the drum song.
- [Egg shakers](#) (available on Amazon)
- [Wooden claves](#) (available on Amazon)
- Story books – our plans include suggested stories, but use your own books, library books, your friends' books etc. that fit the theme rather than buying new ones.



## Useful resources

- You can download 9 termly plans, an Easter and a Christmas talk for your Junior Jivers group from the [Faith in Kids website](#).
- We've recorded a video of a session. Please click here to [download the uncut version](#) or here to [download the edited, shorter version](#) of the session.
- We've recorded some songs with movements which you can download from the [Faith in Kids youtube channel](#).
- Further to the 9 themed termly plans, Easter and Christmas talk, this download pack contains the Junior Jivers **theme song**, the **Junior Jivers logo**, which was designed by Toby and Liz Neal who have graciously allowed churches to use the logo free of charge and a **list of suggested songs** including tips on using the songs and where to learn the actions

Use these resources and suggestions if they're helpful, but modify them to suit your local situation, school terms and the songs your families know. Make them your own!



## Sample session plan

God made me – Session 1			
2 min	Welcome	Hello song (available to download as an attachment) Explain expectations: stay with child on the circle and bring back if wandering. Touch circle.	Stand around the circle
9 min	Singing- <b>Action/Standing</b> <i>Explain that "God made me special" is our theme song.</i>	Clap, stamp, blink, nod, shake God made me special Shake my sillies out Up and down Freeze Hokey Cokey	JJ3 (15) J4J (9) TT (5) POB (4) JJ2 (2) PHHH (47)



9 min	<p><b>Singing</b> <b>Sitting</b></p> <p><i>Talk about each part of the body for each song.</i></p>	<p>Tell me what your name is... Hands (<i>hands</i>) Dancing Face (<i>face</i>) Wheels on the bus (<i>arms</i>) Little Peter Rabbit (<i>nose</i>) God made me (<i>all</i>)</p>	<p>None JJ2 (13) None None None J4J (18)</p>
5 min	<p>Story</p>	<p>Intro: Look around and talk about how we all look different. Ask children to describe themselves or you describe them if they are too little.</p> <p><b>Read</b> – <i>Jesus loves me</i> by Joni Walker. <b>Sing</b> Jesus loves me</p>	<p>Prayer:</p> <p>Thank God for making us just the way we are</p>
5 min	<p>Dancing</p>	<p>Parachute games – run under if you have: <i>long hair, blue eyes, curls, freckles, tall, short etc.</i></p>	
1 min	<p>Goodbye</p>	<p>Goodbye song (available to download as an attachment)</p>	<p>Stand around the circle</p>

JJ3 = Jingle Jam 3

J4J = J is for Jesus

TT = Tumble Tots Action Songs

POB = Play School Oomba Baroomba

JJ2 = Jingle Jam 2

PHHH = Play School Hip Hip Hooray



## Suggested themes

- Start a group with “God made me”
- “Colours” works well in the second-half of the summer term.
- Some themes work better than others leading up to Easter or Christmas. You can download our session plans for Easter and Christmas from the Faith in Kids website and add them to end of the term’s programme.