

# Original Piggyback Song Assignment

Dr. Liske

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**Instructions:** A piggyback song is a familiar tune with new words. Teachers often use piggyback songs to help children remember new lesson material. Choose a topic appropriate for any elementary grade level and write your own piggyback song using a refrain or a verse and refrain from a familiar tune.

Steps to follow:

1. Choose a familiar folk tune or children's song melody which you can sing and most students in the class would know. For your new piggyback song, use at least a single refrain or verse and refrain. Your song may have several verses if you choose.
2. Write new words for your song which teach something appropriate for elementary grade students--you choose the content area or topic. Make your new words rhyme, and be sure they fit with the melody and structure of your familiar melody. Also be sure your new words are appropriate for children. (Write your own new words for this assignment--please don't use someone else's words.) Give your song a title and identify the tune (see below). Practice your song and be sure you can sing it.
3. This assignment is due by email to <liske@uwosh.edu>. Please simply "paste" your song into the body of an email message. I will assemble the into a single document for the class so we can share one another's songs.

Sample Piggyback Song Assignment:

**Christopher Columbus**  
by Catherine Ferch  
to the tune of "Itsy Bitsy Spider"

Columbus sailed the ocean in search of something new.  
He landed in America in 1492.  
Up came the waves and washed the boat ashore.  
Now Christopher Columbus is famous evermore.