

Ringing call changes on handbells or belleplates.

Spend a little time to begin with showing the children (or adults) how to hold the handbells or belleplates. Emphasise the importance of not dropping them or hitting them against each other. Show them how to make the bell ring. For short sessions you probably will not want to show them handstroke and backstroke on handbells. Use the hammer type action of tune handbells ringers. Allow them some time to get a good sound out.

Developing good sound quality

Practise making a good sound as a team. Concentrate on producing a steady even beat with emphasis on listening to each other.

Depending on the age or ability of the children, or on the size of the group that you have, or on the number of bells that you have the children can either have one bell in each hand or just one bell.

- 1. Ring rounds** – from highest to lowest note.
- 2. Play each note twice** – 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8
- 3. Ring up the scale from lowest to highest.**
- 4. Ring up the scale then down the scale without stopping.**

The teacher may need to tap out a steady beat while they are playing.

Making it more interesting

Explain that bellringers would get bored of just ringing rounds, so we change the order of the bells.

- 5. Swap bells over in pairs** – 2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 (or left hand followed by right hand if each ringer has two bells.)
- 6. Dodging** - swap bells over in pairs 2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7, then back to rounds 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
- 7. Queens** - ring the odd numbers followed by the even numbers (1 3 5 7 2 4 6 8)
- 8. Ring two rows of rounds followed by two rows of Queens**
- 9. Ring Tittums** – 1 5 2 6 3 7 4 8
- 10. Ring 2 rows of rounds followed by 2 rows of queens followed by 2 rows of tittums.**
- 11. Call out a pair of bells to swap** eg 2 and 3 swap produces 1 3 2 4 5 6 7 8

Make it fun!

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Joy Till