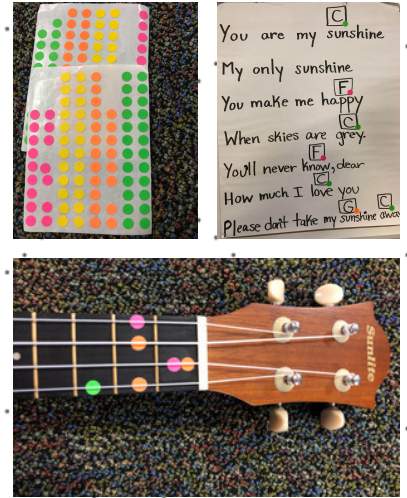


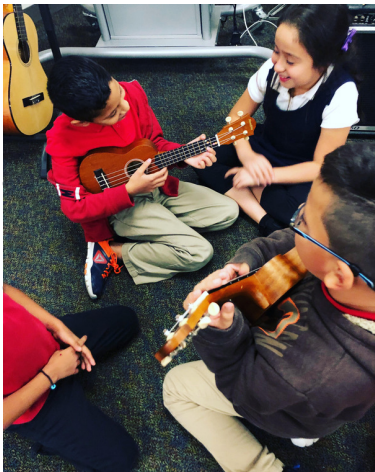
The Simple Music Teacher's Beginner Ukulele Cheat Sheet

1. USE STICKER METHOD

I buy these Avery round color coding neon stickers from Walmart or Amazon, and color code each chord. Often, I will create corresponding chord charts with songs we are working on. It is a cheap, and effective, alternative to more expensive curriculums.



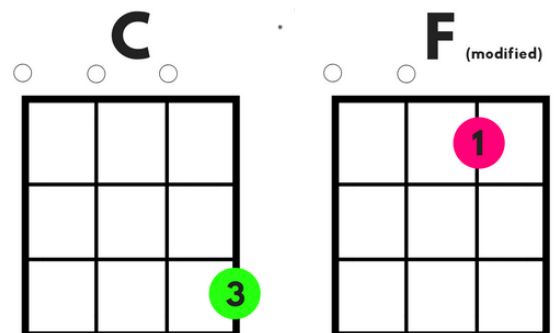
2. PARTNER UP.



You don't need a full class set of ukuleles. The student's fingers start to hurt and by partnering up it gives them a chance to rest their poor, tired, calloused fingers. But I always tell them that PAIN IS GAIN! Also, if you can pair students together based on their skill level (high level with lower level), they can help each other learn the chords faster.

3. START BY TEACHING 1 FINGER CHORDS

You can buy these posters to print out on my [Teachers Pay Teachers Store](#) if you'd like them in your classroom. Eventually I teach the full F chord, G7, and Am.



4. COMPOSE AND CREATE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!

The first day we had ukulele club, I asked them to write a song, with a partner, while just playing the C chord. The things they came up with were amazing! And they can call themselves “songwriters” and “composers” from DAY 1!!

5. SPLIT THE CLASS INTO CHORD GROUPS

If they only know the “C” chord and the “F” chord, divide them into 2 groups and have them play only when it’s their chord’s turn. This gives opportunity for scaffolding based on skill levels. You will see the lower level students feel successful, and the more advanced students start to switch to both chords.

UKULELE GAMES:

1. The Ultimate Chord Changer game:

- *Put students into pairs.**
- *Give students 2 chords to change from (C, F or F, G7)**
- *One student changes chords as many times as they can in 60 seconds. Then they switch. I usually set a timer so they know when to switch.**
- *Have students share with the class what their score was!**

2. The 2 line chord competition:

- *Divide students into two teams/lines.**
- *Call out chords that they're supposed to play.**
- *The student who gets the chord correct will earn a point for the team and then go to the end of the line. You can play until the first team gets to 10, or for however long you'd like!**

FAVORITE FREE APPS/WEBSITES-

1. Ukeoke

2. Yousician

3. Little Kids Rock website-The JamZone

There are many more than that, but I've found these easy to use in the classroom.

SUCCESSFUL BEGINNER SONGS:

***You are my sunshine-C/F/G7**

***Jingle Bells-C/F/G7**

***Deck the Halls-C/F/G7**

***Un Elefante- C/F**

***Three Little Birds- C/F/G7**

***Shake Your Body-G7/F**

*** This Land is Your Land F, C, G7**

*** Don't Worry Be Happy C, G7, F**

***This Little Light of Mine-C/F/G7**

***Lean on Me-C/F/G7**

***Sing About Martin-C/F**

***Frere Jacques -F/C**

***Bluebird-F/C**

***For more beginner ukulele songs, go to my blog or my TPT store.**

HOLDING THE UKULELE

I teach them 3 ways of holding ukulele (got this from Little Kids Rock)

1. Playing position-flat on their body, right hand under curve, left hand on neck.

2. Tabletop-Ukulele is flat on their laps with strings facing down.

3. Quiet Ukulele-Right hand over strings to quiet them.

Other tips on holding the ukulele:

***Tell them to hold it flat on their body. Relax left thumb on back.**

***Curve fingers like a bear claw or like Spiderman crawling up a building!**

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS:

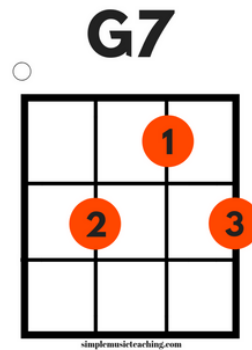
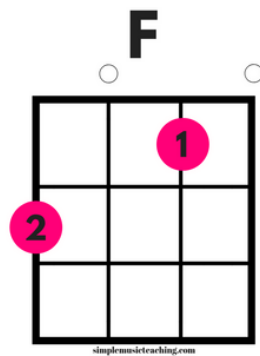
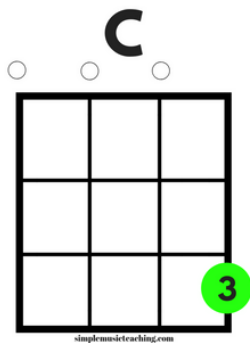
***String Name Acronym:**

Good Cats Eat Ants

***Visit [simplemusicteaching's Ukulele Playlist on Youtube](#)**

***Visit [simplemusicteaching's blog](#) and TPT store for beginner ukulele chord sheets.**

MORE ADVANCED CHORDS:



Hope you find this helpful!

Keepin' it simple,

Paige