

WHALE CLASS

Circle Time Guide

Everything you need, one page per day

**"I Am Special!
I Like Myself"**

Week of **September 1–5**

10–15 min a day

ages 2.5–6

English learners





Week Overview

Print · laminate · ring-bind · hold this all week

5 words they'll own by Friday →

me

like

can

happy

smile

Littles (2.5–3 yrs)

One word + a gesture is a **win**. Never make a little produce a full sentence.

"Me!" + point to self

thumbs up

copy the actions

Bigs (4–6 yrs)

Sentence frames — never let a big get away with just one word.

My name is ____.

I like ____.

I can ____!

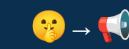
I like myself!

 **Magic Box hook**

 **Teach**

 **Finger play**

 **Game**

 **Whisper-shout close**

Weekly Rituals — use these every single day

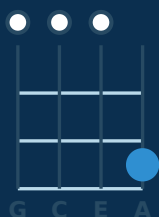
Attention grabber: Teacher: "One, two, three — eyes on me!" · Kids: "One, two — eyes on you!"

The two-tier rule: never make a little produce a sentence, and never let a big get away with one word.

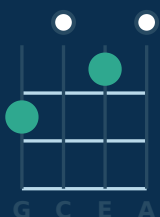
Teacher-fails-on-purpose, once a day: mess up on purpose and let them correct you — ESL kids who correct the teacher are producing language at the highest level.

The Magic Box: any box with a lid. Chant it, shake it, sniff it, peek dramatically — the week's theme lives inside.

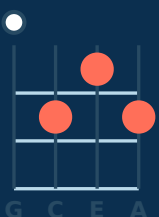
Whisper → shout close: calms them down, then releases them — every single closing.



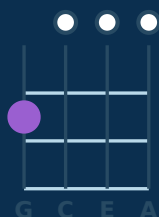
C



F



G7



Am

Uke quick-ref

Strum: **Down** ·

Down · **Down-Up**

("boom — boom — boom-chick")

This Is Me!

2 min MAGIC BOX HOOK

Shake the box, hold it to your ear. Whole class chants: **EVERYONE** "What's in the box? What's in the box?"

Peek inside. Gasp like it's the best thing you've ever seen. Let one child peek — they'll see themselves in the mirror.

TEACHER (point at the child): "Who is in the box?!" **EVERYONE** "ME!"

4 min MIRROR PASS

Pass the mirror around the circle. Each child looks in: **TEACHER** "Ooooh! Who's that?"

LITTLES "Me!"

BIGS "My name is Lili!"

Then the whole class claps the name in syllables: "Li-li! Li-li!" (two claps). Every child gets a name-clap — keep it moving fast.

3 min FINGER PLAY · TEN LITTLE FINGERS

"I have ten little fingers" (wiggle all ten) / "and they all belong to ME!" (hug yourself) / "I can shut them up tight" (squeeze fists) / "or open them wide" (splay fingers) / "put them together" (clap!) / "or make them all hide" (whip behind back) / "jump them up high" (reach up on knees) / "jump them down low" (touch floor) / "fold them quietly, and hold them just so." (whisper, hands in lap) — do it twice, second time faster; the whispered ending lands them calm and seated.

3 min GAME · STAND UP IF...

TEACHER "Stand up if your name is... MAX!" Max jumps up, strikes a pose, class cheers: "Hello Max!" Rapid-fire through everyone. Trick round: call a teddy's name.

1 min CLOSE

Hands on heart, together — whisper → louder → loudest: **EVERYONE** "I am ME! I am SPECIAL!"

Got 3 spare minutes? Read 4–5 pages of "I Like Myself!" (Karen Beaumont) — just point and react, don't translate.

🎵 TODAY'S SONG MOMENT · SPECIAL ME chorus → Monday verse → chorus

C I'm **C** special! I'm **C** special! **G7** Special as can be! **C** I like myself, **G7** one, two, three — **C** ME!

MONDAY VERSE

C This is me! **C** This is me! **G7** My name is Li-li — **C** this is me!

🔄 repeat chorus

TUESDAY

I Like...

Today's words: **like** · **yummy** · **yuck**
Grab: an apple + a silly thing (sock) in the Magic Box; 4–5 picture cards/toys.

2 min MAGIC BOX HOOK

Chant the box chant. Sniff the box deeply. "Mmmm..." Pull out the apple. (rub tummy)

TEACHER "An apple! I LIKE apples! Mmm... yummy!"

Pull out the sock. Sniff it. Horror face. **TEACHER** (throw it over your shoulder): "I like socks...? NO! Yuck!"

3 min TEACH · YUMMY / YUCK

Teach the two gestures: **thumbs up + tummy rub** = "Yummy!" · **thumbs down + scrunched face** = "Yuck!" Drill it as a game of opposites — you say one, they do it. Speed up until it falls apart laughing.

3 min FINGER PLAY · WAY UP HIGH IN THE APPLE TREE

"Way up high in the apple tree" (stretch arms way up) / "Two little apples smiled at me" (two fists up high, cheeky smile) / "I shook that tree as hard as I could" (shake an invisible tree wildly) / "DOWN came the apples —" (fists fall, catch them) / "Mmmmm... they were good!" (pretend to munch, rub tummy)

4 min GAME · DO YOU LIKE IT?

Hold up each card/toy: **TEACHER** "Ice cream! Do you like it?"

LITTLES thumbs + "Yummy!" / thumbs down + "Yuck!"

BIGS "I like ice cream!" / "I like cake because it's sweet."

Spider card gets the biggest screams — save it for last. Stretch your reactions: the bigger your face, the bigger theirs.

1 min CLOSE

EVERYONE (point out, point to friends, hug self): "I like apples... I like YOU... and I like ME!"

🎵 **TODAY'S SONG MOMENT · SPECIAL ME** chorus → Tuesday verse → chorus

C I'm **C** special! I'm **C** special! **G7** Special as can be! **C** I like myself, **G7** one, two, three — **C** ME!

TUESDAY VERSE

C I like apples, yum yum yum! **G7** Yummy, yummy apples — **C** in my tum!

🔄 repeat chorus

WEDNESDAY

I Can!

Today's words: **can** · **jump** · **run** · **clap** · **spin**
Grab: nothing — your body is the material. (Optional: action cards.)

1 min HOOK · TEACHER FAILS

Flap your arms hard. Try to fly. Fail dramatically. **TEACHER** (huge jump): "Can I fly? ... NO! But — I can JUMP!"

4 min TEACH · YES, I CAN!

Call-and-response, everyone does each action 5 times: **TEACHER** "Can you jump?"

EVERYONE (all jump: 1-2-3-4-5!) "Yes, I can!"

Cycle through: run (*on the spot*) → clap → spin → stomp → tip-toe.

LITTLES just do the action

BIGS add the call-and-response

Trick: call an action and do a different one — littles crack up, bigs shout "No!"

2 min FINGER PLAY · OPEN, SHUT THEM

"Open, shut them, open, shut them" (*hands open, squeeze shut*) / "Give a little clap, clap, clap!" / "Open, shut them, open, shut them," / "Put them in your lap, lap, lap!" / "Creep them, creep them, slowly upward" (*fingers walk up chest*) / "To your little chin..." / "Open wide your little mouth —" / "But do not let them in!" (*whip hands behind back — squeals*)

4 min GAME · FREEZE!

Clap a beat or play music. Everyone dances. When it stops — freeze! Then call an action:

TEACHER "I can... SPIN!" All spin till the beat starts again. 4–5 rounds. Last round, let a big kid be the caller.

2 min CLOSE · SHOW-OFF CIRCLE

Quick around the circle: each child does one thing they can do. Little shows a jump, class cheers. Big announces: **CHILD** "I can draw!" **CLASS** "You can draw!"

Song to know: "Yes, I Can!" (*Super Simple Songs*) fits this day perfectly for a music moment.

🎵 **TODAY'S SONG MOMENT · SPECIAL ME** chorus → Wednesday verse → chorus

C I'm **C** special! I'm **C** special! **G7** Special as can be! **C** I like myself, **G7** one, two, three — **C** ME!

WEDNESDAY VERSE

C I can jump! **C** I can run! **G7** I can clap my hands — **C** being me is fun!

🔄 repeat chorus

THURSDAY

Today's words: **happy** · **smile**
Grab: a paper heart in the Magic Box.

I Like Me!

2 min MAGIC BOX HOOK

Box chant. Pull out the heart. Hold it to your chest. **TEACHER** (wrap arms around yourself, sway): **"A heart! I love... ME!" "And I am HAPPY!"** (enormous smile, point at it) **"Smile!"** Everyone makes their biggest smile — "frame" each child's smile with your fingers like a photographer.

3 min SONG · IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

Verse 1: clap your hands · Verse 2: stomp your feet · Verse 3: shout (*hands to mouth, shout it*) **"I LIKE ME!"** Verse 3 is the whole lesson smuggled into a song they already know.

5 min HEART CIRCLE · THE SPOTLIGHT GAME

Pass the paper heart. Whoever holds it gets the spotlight:

LITTLES hold it, big smile, say "Happy!" **BIGS** "I like myself because I am kind." / "...because I can run!"

After each child, the whole class points at them and chants: **EVERYONE** **"Mei-Mei, you are SPECIAL!"** Every child gets an individual moment of the whole class celebrating them — keep each turn under 15 seconds. **This is the one they'll remember.**

2 min CLOSE

EVERYONE (*hug self, whisper → normal → shout*): **"I like me... I like me... I LIKE ME!"**

Got 3 spare minutes? A few pages of "I Like Me!" (Nancy Carlson) — big simple pictures, perfect here.

🎵 **TODAY'S SONG MOMENT · SPECIAL ME** chorus → Thursday verse → chorus
CHORUS

C I'm **C** special! I'm **G7** special! **C** Special as can be! I **G7** like myself, one, two, three — **C** ME!

THURSDAY VERSE

C I am happy, I **C** can smile! I **G7** like me! I like me! **C** Smile, smile, smile!

🔄 repeat chorus

FRIDAY

My Body + Big Review

Today's words: **eyes** · **nose** · **mouth** · **hands** — plus everything from the week.
Grab: mirror, apple (or card), paper heart — the week's props. Stickers/stamp for awards.

1 min HOOK

Mirror comes back out of the Magic Box. **TEACHER** "Look! Who's special?" **EVERYONE** "ME!"

3 min TEACH · POINT CHANT

Chant and point on your own body; kids copy on theirs: **TEACHER** "This is my nose!" (boop it) / "These are my eyes!" (blink-blink) / "This is my mouth!" (big "aaah") / "These are my hands!" (jazz hands).

BIGS echo the full line

LITTLES just boop and blink

3 min SONG · HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES & TOES

Three rounds: slow-motion → normal → ridiculous-fast. *The fast round always collapses into giggles.* "Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes," ×2 / "Eyes and ears and mouth and nose," / "Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes!"

3 min GAME · TOUCH YOUR...!

TEACHER "Touch your... NOSE! Touch your... EYES! Touch your... TUMMY!" Speed round. Then the trick: say "nose" while touching your own head. Kids who catch you shout the correct word.

4 min BIG REVIEW + FINALE

Hold up each prop, quick-fire: Mirror → "Me!" / "My name is ____!" · Apple → "I like apples! Yummy!" · Jump on the spot → "I can jump!" · Heart → "I like me!"

Then the week's chant, all together with actions, **twice**: **EVERYONE** (point to self · hands frame face · hug self · count on fingers): "I am special, look at me! I like myself — one, two, three!"

Sticker or hand-stamp for every child as they leave the circle: "You are special!"

🎵 TODAY'S SONG MOMENT · SPECIAL ME whole song, top to bottom!

CHORUS

C I'm special! **C** I'm special! **G7** Special as can be! **C** I like myself, **G7** one, two, three — **C** ME!

FRIDAY VERSE

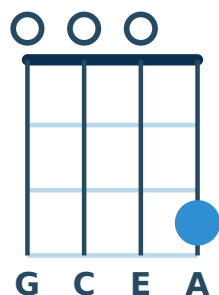
C Eyes and nose and hands and feet, **G7** clap, clap! Stamp, stamp! **C** Being me is sweet!

🔄 repeat chorus · then sing Mon–Thu verses back to back if there's time!

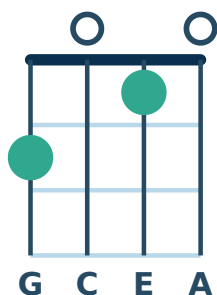


The Songbook

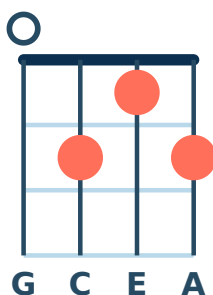
Ukulele chords · C · F · G7 · Am only



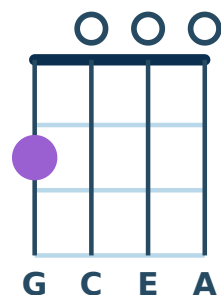
C



F



G7



Am

Strum: Down · Down · Down-Up ("boom — boom — boom-chick")

Can't manage it yet? Four slow downs per bar works. Tempo: slow and bouncy, around walking pace.

Tip: Chant it without the uke first; add chords once they know the words.

Beginner strum loop:

C ×4

→

G7 ×4

→

F

→

Am

→

C



C



F



G7



Am

chord chips sit above the word where the chord changes ↓



Special Me

Whale Class theme song

Chorus sung twice each time; daily build = chorus → today's verse → chorus. On Friday, sing the whole thing top to bottom. Everyone jumps on the final "ME!"

CHORUS

C I'm special! **C** I'm special! *(point both thumbs at chest)*

G7 Special as can be! *(arms stretch wide)*

C I like myself, *(hug yourself)*

G7 One, two, three — **C** ME! *(count fingers, then jazz hands on ME!)*

MON VERSE

C This is me! **C** This is me! *(point to self on the beat)*

G7 My name is Li-li — **C** this is me! *(sing each child's name in turn)*

TUE VERSE

C I like apples, yum yum yum! *(rub tummy)*

G7 Yummy, yummy apples — **C** in my tum! *(pat tummy on "tum!")*

WED VERSE

C I can jump! **C** I can run! *(jump, run on the spot)*

G7 I can clap my hands — **C** being me is fun! *(clap-clap, thumbs at chest)*

THU VERSE

C I am happy, **C** I can smile! *(point at big smile)*

G7 I like me! I like me! **C** Smile, smile, smile! *(hug self, then frame the smile)*

FRI VERSE

C Eyes and nose and hands and feet, *(touch each one)*

G7 Clap, clap! Stamp, stamp! **C** Being me is sweet! *(clap twice, stamp twice, hug self)*



The Magic Box Song

Original · opens circle every day

Am, one finger, strum slow and spooky — lean in on every line. Big C strum on POP!

Am

What's in the box? What's in the box? *(hands cup ears)*

Am

Shake it, shake it — knock, knock, knock! *(shake the box, knock on the lid)*

Am

What's in the box? What's in the box?

C

One... two... three... POP! *(open the lid on a big C strum!)*



Ten Little Fingers

Monday

C

G7

I have ten little fingers, and they all belong to me,

(wiggle all ten)

C

G7

I can make them do things — would you like to see?

(hug yourself)

C

G7

I can shut them up tight, or open them wide, *(squeeze fists*

· splay fingers)

C

G7

Put them all together, or make them all hide, *(clap! · whip*

behind back)

C

G7

I can jump them up high, I can jump them down low,

(reach up on knees · touch floor)

C

I can fold them quietly, and hold them just so. *(whisper,*

hands in lap — one soft strum)



Way Up High in the Apple Tree

Tuesday

C

Way up high in the apple tree *(stretch arms way up)*

C

G7

Two little apples smiled at me *(two fists up high, cheeky smile)*

C

I shook that tree as hard as I could *(shake an invisible tree wildly)*

G7

DOWN came the apples — *(fists fall, catch them)*

C

Mmmmm... they were good! *(pretend to munch, rub tummy)*



Open, Shut Them

Wednesday

C

Open, shut them, open, shut them *(hands open, squeeze shut)*

G7

Give a little clap, clap, clap!

C

Open, shut them, open, shut them,

G7

Put them in your lap, lap, lap!

C

Creep them, creep them, slowly upward *(fingers walk up chest*

— slow the strums down here)

G7

To your little chin...

C

Open wide your little mouth —

G7

But do not let them in! *(stop dead, one big strum on the snatch-away —*

whip hands behind back)



If You're Happy and You Know It

Thursday

C

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands *(clap clap)*

F

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands *(clap clap)*

C

G7

If you're happy and you know it, and you really want to show it,

C

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands *(clap clap)*

MORE VERSES

C

Verse 2: ...stomp your feet *(stomp stomp)*

C

Verse 3: ...shout **"I LIKE ME!"** *(hands to mouth, shout it)*



Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes

Friday

Round 1 slow-motion · Round 2 normal · Round 3 ridiculous-fast (it always collapses into giggles).

C

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes,

C

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes,

G7

Eyes and ears and mouth and nose,

C

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes!



This Is My Nose

Friday · point chant, steady strum

C

This is my nose! Boop, boop, boop!

C

These are my eyes! Blink, blink, blink!

C

This is my mouth! Aaah, aaah, aaah!

C

These are my hands — ta-daa! *(jazz hands on the last strum)*