

MAKING LIFE MORE FUN

Tune In To Togetherness

(NAPSA)—If you know a great way to spend a fun time with family and friends, sing out.

Actually, for an increasing number of Americans, that is the way they enjoy their time together, by singing.

Child care experts say music hath charms to soothe babies to sleep and can boost self-esteem in older children. It can even help some youngsters concentrate while doing their homework and it can give family members an activity to share.

Families can sing along with the radio in the car, the piano in the parlor or almost anywhere with the help of a home karaoke machine.

Although long thought of as fun for grownups, more and more of these devices are becoming a big hit with teens and tweens. The portable machines are great for at-home celebrations, especially kids' birthday parties. "I've seen kids as young as three or four performing," says Michael Row, a California karaoke producer. Adds one father who's fond of karaoke for kids, "It gives them something to do other than a video game or TV and it gives them some confidence." Other parents say singing can be a great way to keep kids entertained at home when they can't go out to play.

You can even get karaoke machines designed especially for young people.

One, the Nickelodeon 129 by The



Life can seem like a song for parents and children who sing along with a home karaoke machine.

Singing Machine[®], is a sophisticated unit made for youngsters aged 5 to 11. It comes with a demo CD and lyrics sheet for "The SpongeBob SquarePants Theme Song," the "F.U.N. Song," also from SpongeBob and "Rain Rap," from "The Wild Thornberries" cartoon show.

The other, the Nick Jr., 422, by The Singing Machine is a home karaoke machine with sing-along cassette player and record function that's made for children ages 3 to 5. It comes with a double cassette and printed lyric sheet of songs from the TV shows "Dora the Explorer," "Blue's Clues" and "Little Bill."

You can find these at major toy, appliance and department stores. If not, sing out.

In addition to singing along with each other, your family may care to consider joining a church choir or other singing group. It could help you all make beautiful music together.