

YES! You can use The Young Flute Player Book 1 with band beginners

I have to admit, like many flute teachers, I'm not a fan of having the flutes in with other band instruments to begin; it's ideal if they can have separate rehearsals or lessons at least for the first term. However, we do not live in an ideal world and many young players start their flute journey in band, so here are my suggestions of how to adapt the first lessons in ["The Young Flute Player" Book 1](#) for your band students:

- The **only Units you need to adapt are Units 2 and 3**, as Unit 1 is on the headjoint, and in Unit 4 B flat is introduced.
- **Unit 2** – in pencil, add B flat to the key signatures of the music (or write as accidentals if you prefer). Then colour in the B flat fingering on the chart on that page. I use the thumb B flat first as it's easier and the student learns to move their thumb between the two keys; I teach the other B flat fingerings a bit later, but it is fine to start with long B flat fingering if you prefer that. So teach Unit 2 with B flat and A.
- **Unit 3** – again add in pencil B flat to the key signatures, of the first page of this unit. Therefore, students will play "Mary had a Little Lamb" and "In the Moonlight" with B flat instead of B natural. As many will know these tunes, I change the written words to accommodate the minor key.
 - "Mary had an itchy lamb, itchy lamb, itchy lamb, Mary had an itchy lamb its fleece was full of fleas."
 - "In the spooky moonlight, my good friend the witch, please lend me your broomstick, just to hitch a lift."
- **Next** (BEFORE teaching the second page of Unit 3) I go back to Unit 2; we rub out the B flats and they learn B natural and replay these exercises with B natural.
- **Then** we learn the first page of Unit 3 with B naturals and use the original words for the songs. We briefly discuss the different sounds of major and minor and I ask them to play the little lamb, then the itchy lamb, (the silver moonlight, then the spooky moonlight) so they know the difference between B natural and B flat.
- For the second page of **Unit 3**, you can teach as it's written and/or substitute B flats for the naturals in some of the exercises/ pieces. I would especially do Exercise 4 with both B flat and B natural, as I teach thumb B flat first and this exercise is specifically for the thumb.

From Unit 4, no adaptation needed!

(P.S Any extra notes they may need for band music – every note of the flute is on the fingering charts at the beginning of the book.)