

How can children learn about Music in Early Years?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum supports children to develop their creativity, expression and enjoyment through music and sound. Children are encouraged to explore rhythm, pitch and tempo by singing songs, clapping patterns, moving to music and playing a wide range of percussion instruments. They learn to listen carefully and respond to different types of music, building concentration, memory and communication skills. Through rhymes, action songs and musical games, children develop early language, counting and coordination in fun and meaningful ways. Opportunities for performance, such as singing together, role play and group music-making, help to build confidence and a sense of community. Exposure to music from different cultures and traditions fosters curiosity, appreciation and respect for diversity, while inspiring children to express themselves creatively.

Links to Development Matters: Birth to Three

Expressive Arts & Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show attention to sounds and music. • Respond emotionally and physically to music when it changes. • Begin to move and dance to music. • Begin to explore their voice and different sounds it can make.
Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children use intonation, pitch and changing volume when "talking".
Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to clap and stamp to music.

Key Vocabulary

Listen, rhymes, poems, stories, voice, body, hands, copy, imitate, explore

End Points

- Recognise familiar rhymes and songs and join in with some sounds, for example, know some lyrics or clap along.
- Approach music instruments and know what sound they can make.
- Use their bodies to make sound, for example clap and stomp
- Move to music.
- Participate in songs with actions.

Links to Development Matters: Three and Four Year Olds

Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sing a large repertoire of songs.
Expressive Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen with increased attention to sound.• Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings.• Remember and sing entire songs.• Sing pitch of a tone sung by another person.• Sing melodic shape of a familiar song.• Create their own songs or improvise a song around one they know.• Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.
Key Vocabulary	
song, sing, dance, play, explore, and experiment, voice, voice sounds, sound, instrument, loud, quiet, high, low, squeaky, soft, deep, body sounds, movement	
End Points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can sing at least familiar nursery rhymes• Can demonstrate playing an instrument loudly/quietly (dynamics)• Creates rhymes using instruments and body percussion• Responds to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings	

Links to Development Matters: Reception

Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.• Listen to and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding.• Learn rhymes, poems and songs.• Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound.
Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore the natural world around them.• Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different way.
Expressive Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses.• Explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

- Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses.
- Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody.
- Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
- Create collaboratively sharing ideas, resources and skills.
- Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.

Early Learning Goals

Understanding the World

Being Imaginative and Expressive

- Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate try to move in time with music.

Key Vocabulary

song, sing, dance, play, explore, and experiment, voice, voice sounds, sound, instrument, loud, quiet, high, low, squeaky, soft, deep, body sounds, body percussion, sound, tempo, fast, slow, rhythm, beat, instrumental sounds, tempo, fast, quickly, slowly, dynamic, loudly, quietly, environmental sounds, pitch, middle, nature sounds

End Points

- Can sing a familiar song with accompanying actions
- Can play an instrument loudly or quietly (dynamics) to suit a piece of music.
- Can identify instruments that are familiar.
- Can listen to a piece of music and express their thoughts and feelings.
- Can watch, follow and copy a rhythm.
- Can perform a dance to express their thoughts and feelings.
- Can keep a steady beat or pulse

Links to National Curriculum: Year 1

Pupils should be taught about	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognising and understanding the difference between pulse and rhythm.• Recognising basic tempo, dynamic and pitch changes (faster/slower, louder/quieter and higher/lower).• Listening to and repeating short, simple rhythmic patterns.• Combining instrumental and vocal sounds within a given structure.• Creating simple melodies using a few notes.• Using their voices expressively to speak and chant.• Singing short songs from memory, maintaining the overall shape of the melody and keeping in time.• Use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes• Play tuned and untuned instruments musically• Listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music• Experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music
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