

Creating a Learning Environment through Music

“Just like adults, children enjoy hearing familiar pieces of music over and over again. This can be utilized so that music can be used at certain times of the day, such as to signal an activity, or to reassure and relax, or energise and excite children. Music can be used to encourage discussion, to teach concepts and to create the right atmosphere for learning.”

The Thinking Child Resource Book – Call & Featherstone – the early years

Times and Places for using Recorded Music

- ♪ First thing in the morning as pupils arrive – classroom reception area/hall
- ♪ As pupils gather on the carpet for group times
- ♪ Before time outdoors
- ♪ Just before lunch
- ♪ After lunch or an outdoor time to help refocus and quieten down
- ♪ Within a dance, PE or music lesson, for moving bodies or hands, for listening lying down.
- ♪ On headphones in a listening corner
- ♪ During work sessions as background or stimulus
- ♪ At story time before, after or instead of a story
- ♪ As a stimulus for painting or drawing
- ♪ As a background for role play
- ♪ As part of a listening session to stimulate imagination and discussion
- ♪ Outside for quiet listening or to stimulate movement
- ♪ At cleaning up time
- ♪ For early warning that the end of an activity or time period is approaching
- ♪ For moving from one activity to another

Types of Music for your Collection

- ♪ Quiet, lyrical music to relax the children, such as ballads, quiet classical or instrumentals
- ♪ Lively, jolly music to energise, such as marches, or lively dance music
- ♪ Simple, easily recognised, short pieces of music to signal the start or end of an activity, such as TV and film themes, advertisement jingles, nursery rhymes and songs.
- ♪ Music to demarcate the time needed for a task
- ♪ Music to celebrate achievements, such as fanfares, circus music, opera or catch pop songs
- ♪ Songs that teach certain skills, such as number or alphabet rhymes.
- ♪ Music for adding actions – to move to

Children don't always need pictures or stories to understand and enjoy music.

Playing relevant music helps create a memorable experience.

Children can listen to music of different lengths depending on familiarity and liking

If using short sections of a piece, fade it in at the beginning and out at the end so children know there is more of the piece.

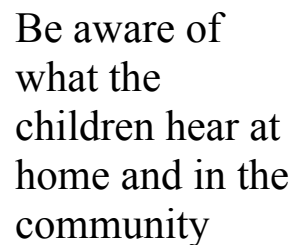
Stirring the emotions through music can lead to real pupil engagement

Examples of Listening Resources

(Space has been left for you to add your own ideas)

Lively/energetic – “Clearing up music!”

- The flight of the Bumble Bee – Rimsky-Korsakov
- The Typewriter – Leroy Anderson
- Minute Waltz – Chopin
- William Tell overture – Rossini
- Any Blues/Boogie number – Jools Holland
- Nutcracker Suite – March –Tchaikovsky
- Countdown (TV Quiz programme)
- Groundforce – TV theme tune
- Arrival of the Queen of Sheba – Handel
- Don’t Stop moving – S Club 7
- I feel Good – James Brown
- Carmina Burana – Orff
- Bamboleo – Gypsy Kings
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Be aware of
what the
children hear at
home and in the
community

A Challenge

- Mission Impossible – Film music
- Star Trek – Film music
- Gladiator – Film music
- Ride of the Valkyries – Wagner (Apocalypse)
- Chariots of Fire – Vangelli
- Reach – S Club 7
- I have a Dream – Westlife/Abba
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Celebrating Successes (E.g. football win)

- We are the Champions – Queen
- Star Wars – Film Music
- Indiana Jones – Film Music
- I Can See Clearly Now – Johnny Nash
- Three Lions – Baddiell & Skinner (Football coming home)
- Eye of the Tiger – Film theme from Rocky
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Calm and Relaxing

- Albatross – Fleetwood Mac
- Open Heart Zoo Martin Grech (Advert for Lexus)
- Air on G String – Bach
- Largo – New World Symphony - Dvorak
- The Orinoco from Watermark by Enya
- Canon -Pachelbel
- Brothers In Arms – Dire Straits
- The Swan from The Carnival of the Animals
- Greensleeves by Vaughan Williams
- Tubular Bells – Mike Oldfield
- Air on a G String – Bach
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Reflective

- Adagio for Strings – Barber (Film music for Platoon & Elephant Man)
- Over The Rainbow – Eva Cassidy
- What a Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong
- Imagine – John Lennon
- You'll never walk alone – Gerry & the Pacemakers
- Space Oddity – David Bowie
- It was a very good year - Robbie Williams/Frank Sinatra
- The Star and the Wise Man – Ladysmith Black Mambazo
- Rain, Rain, Beautiful Rain - Ladysmith Black Mambazo
- Titanic – Film Music
- Ave Maria – G.Caccini
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Happy/Fun

- Fairground/organ music
- Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson
- The Syncopated Clock – Leroy Anderson
- Guaglione - Prez Prado (Old Guinness advert)
- Mas Que Nada – Sergio Mendes (Austin Powers theme Music)
- I like driving in my car – Madness
- Pink Panther – Film Music
- Happy Talk – Captain Sensible
- Summer Holiday – Cliff Richard & the Shadows
- Anitra's dance from Peer Gynt by Grieg
- Fossils from Carnival of the Animals by Saint – Saens
- Walking on Sunshine -
- La Bamba – Los Lobos
- Clog dance from La Fille Mal Gardee – Herold
- The Chicken Song
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Pop music

Children often know the words and dance steps of many pop songs – past & present

Rhythmic – can't keep still/dance

- We will rock you – Queen (opening)
- Rock DJ – Robbie Williams
- Rocking all over the World – Status Quo
- Dancing in the Street - Martha Reeves
- David Bowie/Mick Jagger
- Jailhouse Rock - Elvis
- Mambo No. 5 – Lou Bega/Bob Builder
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Music from other cultures

Children respond well to music with a good beat. Latin American music, African, Asian and Caribbean

Dramatic/loud

- Bolero – Ravel (Torvil & Dean Ice dance – slowly gets louder)
- The Dam Busters March – E. Coates
- Music for the Royal Fireworks – Handel (La Rejouissance)
- Fanfare for the Common Man – Aaron Copeland
- A Space Odyssey – Richard Strauss (Opening)
- Mars from the Planet Suite – Gustav Holst
- Ride of the Valkyries – Wagner (Film Apocalypse Now)
- War of the Worlds- Opening theme Jeff Wayne
- Zadok the Priest – Handel (The Madness of King George)
- Ride of the Valkyries – Wagner (Film – Apocalypse Now)
- Carmina Burana – Opening theme – Orff
- Jupiter from The Planets Suite – Holst
- Lord of the Rings film music
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Linking Listening to Music across the Curriculum

Connect the Learning

Use the theme tune from Star Wars to start a topic on Forces
(*may the force be with you!*)

Geography

- Choose music to represent country being studied. E.g. India – Classical Indian/Bollywood music.
- What a wonderful world – Louis Armstrong
- Heal the World – Michael Jackson - Recycling
- Choose instrumental music featuring a particular instrument linked to a country. E.g. sitar – India Accordion/hurdy-gurdy – France etc.
- Our House by Madness (settlements)
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Numeracy

- Money – Pink Floyd
- Money makes the world go round - Song from the film Cabaret
- Money, money money – Abba
- 5,6,7,8 – Steps
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History

- Tudor music – Greensleeves – (Henry VIII is often quoted as the composer.)
- Songs from WW2 - White Cliffs of Dover etc.
- Medieval, Elizabethan, Tudor music. Various CDs available from libraries
- Transport topic – Lots of pop/childrens songs about various modes of transport – Yellow Submarine – Runaway Train
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Science

- Nature Rainforest CDs available from Garden centres – “Environmental”
- Sea
- Seasons - Vivaldi – Four Seasons
- Mini- beasts – Ugly Bug Ball
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P.E.

- Music to warm up/exercise
- Sporting TV Themes
- Use calming music at the end of physical sessions especially for younger children. If the children lie still and listen for just two minutes, they will be calmer when it is time to get dressed.
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Art

- Play music in the background that represents the mood or time in history that associates with the work
- Pictures at an Exhibition – Mussorgsky – The Promenade.(Walking around a gallery looking at the pictures)
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Literacy

- Relaxing music to write or read to.
- Drama inspired music Shakespearian? A Midsummer Nights Dream – Mendelssohn
- Shakespeare in Love – Film theme tune
- Songs from traditional stories
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MFL

- Music from the country
- Songs from the country – e.g. France - Frere Jacques, Il est ne le devine enfant, Allouette
- Germany - Stille Nacht (Silent Night)
- Choose instrumental music featuring a particular instrument linked to a country. E.g. sitar – India Accordion – France etc.
- Music from Pink Panther?!
- Rise and Fall by Craig Davis (sung as a duet with a French singer)
- Celine Dion – any french tracks
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PSHE

- Circle time. Choose a piece of music to move into circle time .
- One child could choose a piece of music each week to listen to in circle time and give a very brief commentary of why they chose it. – (Respecting other peoples choices)
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