

Music at home

“Sing like no one is listening to you: dance like no one is watching you.”

Music is a wonderful art; it can console us when we're sad, bring a tear to our eyes without us understanding why and it can make us want to dance and sing.

If you're stuck at home due to the current situation then please don't forget to let music carry you along. Don't worry about education – just enjoy it, and when you're in the right mood try to talk about why you're enjoying it.

Listen to your **favourite music** with your family. Talk about why you like it. If they're pop songs from your own childhood then talk about the happy memories you associate with the music. If the music makes you want to dance then dance, dance, dance! It'll keep you fit and make everyone smile 😊

In the bathroom

Singing in the shower isn't a joke. The acoustics in the bathroom flatter voices – there are no soft surfaces to absorb the soundwaves (whoops, cross curriculum science!) so your voice bounces back to you loudly and clearly.

In the kitchen

You could have fun with homemade percussion instruments here. Pots and pans and wooden spoons might be too loud for some (hard surfaces again) but shakers are altogether softer and making your own is really satisfying (Pumpkin, Sunflower and Chia seeds all sound different). Big things make deeper sounds (Tuba, Double Bass, adult male voice etc) and little things make high sounds (Flute, triangle, a child's voice, bird song etc)

In the living room

Even if you're just chilling out in the front of the television think about why music is used in the programme you're watching.

How is the music enhancing the mood of the show?

What instruments can you hear?

Do you know the names of all the instruments in an orchestra?

Where has the music come from? How is it that you know music has come from South America, or Africa or China?

In the garden

There is a lovely equation for art: **Style and Form = Purpose and Audience.**

When the neighbour's dog is barking there is a purpose and audience.

When birds are singing to each other they've got a purpose and audience too.

A car alarm or police siren has a very specific purpose and audience too.

In the bedroom

Falling asleep to music can be very relaxing. I can still remember every word spoken by Paul Simon at the Concert in Central Park. My parents listened to it every night on a camping holiday once they'd put me to bed in the roof of our VW Camper Van. I can also remember falling asleep on school nights listening to my dad practising his Grade 5 classical guitar pieces. He was very diligent.

In the car

I hope you all listen to music in the car – for me it's genuine quality time. Take turns choosing the music, but sometimes try forcing yourself to listen to a different radio station for example. If my immediate response to music is that I don't like it – I do try to puzzle out why, and very often the answer is revealing. Children are naturally drawn to nursery rhymes but we outgrow them as our musical tastes develop. I'm sure you have some musical skeletons in your closet – I once went to an S Club 7 concert!

Online

We are very lucky indeed to have the BBC. I've listed a few recommendations below, but there is more primary school music on the BBC website than you could shake a stick at. The most important thing though is to enjoy it **together**.

Early Years

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/yolandas-band-jam>

Assemblies

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/ks1-ks2-primary-school-autumn-term-resources/zjnf6g8>

Songs and topics

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/music-songs-ks1--ks2-page/znrj8xs>

Improve your singing

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bring-the-noise/get-singing-with-gareth-malone/zkvj92p>

Ideas for practical music making around home

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bring-the-noise/half-term-music-activities/zmmpxyc/>