Music Skills Grid

Below are some activities to support your child in developing key skills in Music

EYFS and Key Stage 1

Body Percussion Band Musical skill: Pulse and rhythm Encourage children to make music using their bodies. Can they clap their hands, stamp their feet, pat their knees or click their fingers to create different sounds? - EYFS: Copy a simple clapping pattern. - KS1: Create and repeat a four-beat body percussion pattern. - Challenge: Can they keep a steady beat while singing a familiar song?	Sound Detectives Musical skill: Listening and sound recognition Ask children to close their eyes and listen carefully to the sounds around them. What can they hear? A ticking clock, birds singing, a car passing or water running? - EYFS: Identify and describe different sounds. - KS1: Sort sounds into loud, quiet, high and low. - Challenge: Recreate one of the sounds using their voice or body.	Make Your Own Shakers Musical skill: Exploring timbre and dynamics Use a securely sealed, empty plastic bottle or container with a little dry rice or pasta inside. Shake it gently and then loudly. How does the sound change? - EYFS: Explore different ways of shaking and making sounds. - KS1: Compare sounds and describe them using musical vocabulary. - Challenge: Shake loudly, quietly, quickly and slowly in response to instructions.

Musical Statues Musical skill: Responding to music and tempo Play a favourite song and encourage children to dance. When the music stops, they must freeze like a statue! - EYFS: Move freely in response to music and stop when it stops. - KS1: Change movements to match fast and slow music. - Challenge: Can they move like an animal, robot or superhero to match the music?	Copy My Rhythm Musical skill: Rhythm and musical memory An adult claps a short pattern and the child copies it. Take turns being the rhythm leader. Try clapping, tapping knees or patting the floor. - EYFS: Copy two or three claps. - KS1: Copy longer patterns of four or more beats. - Challenge: Create their own rhythm for someone else to copy..	Sing It, Change It! Musical skill: Pitch, melody and vocal expression Choose a familiar nursery rhyme or song, such as Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. Sing it in different ways. Can you sing it quietly, loudly, slowly or quickly? - EYFS: Join in with familiar songs and explore different voices. - KS1: Recognise when a melody goes higher or lower. - Challenge: Change the ending of a familiar song or make up a new verse.
High or Low? Musical skill: Pitch Use your voice to make high and low sounds. Pretend to be different animals: a tiny mouse, a buzzing	Create a Sound Story Musical skill: Composition and creative expression Tell a simple story, such as going on a walk through a forest. Ask	Become a Music Conductor Musical skill: Performing, dynamics and musical control Children become the conductor of their own family orchestra! Use

bee, a roaring lion or a giant dinosaur! - EYFS: Explore high and low sounds using their voices. - KS1: Identify whether sounds are high or low. - Challenge: Sing a short pattern of notes, moving from low to high and back again.	children to create sounds to bring the story to life using their voices, hands and everyday objects. - EYFS: Make sounds to represent different characters or events. - KS1: Choose different sounds to represent parts of a story. - Challenge: Decide the order of the sounds and perform the story to someone at home.	hand signals to tell everyone when to make sounds, stop, get louder or get quieter. - EYFS: Use actions to start and stop sounds. - KS1: Control the volume and speed of sounds using hand signals. - Challenge: Conduct a short performance with a beginning, middle and end..

Key Stage 2

Become a Rhythm Creator Key skill: Rhythm and pulse Create your own rhythmic patterns using claps, stamps, clicks and pats. Start with a simple four-beat pattern and gradually make it more challenging.	Sound Effects Challenge Key skill: Timbre and sound exploration Explore your home to find objects that make interesting sounds. Try tapping, scraping, shaking or rubbing different safe objects. How many different sounds can you discover?	Become a Songwriter Key skill: Composition and lyrics Choose a topic you feel passionate about. It could be football, friendship, animals, school or your favourite hobby. Write your own song lyrics to a familiar tune or create a completely new melody.

- Create a four-beat rhythm and repeat it. - Use a mixture of long and short sounds. - Create an eight-beat rhythm and teach it to someone else. - Can you perform your rhythm while keeping a steady pulse?	- Find five household objects that make different sounds. - Describe each sound using musical vocabulary. - Organise the sounds from highest to lowest pitch. - Choose three objects and use them to create a short piece of music.	- Write a verse and a chorus. - Try to make the words rhyme. - Think about how the melody could change between the verse and chorus. - Perform your song to someone at home.
The Listening Detective Key skill: Listening and musical appreciation Listen to a piece of music you have never heard before. It could be classical, jazz, pop, rock or music from another culture. Listen carefully and investigate what you can hear. - Can you identify the instruments or sounds? - Is the music fast or slow? Loud or quiet? - Can you hear a repeating rhythm or melody?	Create Your Own Body Percussion Performance Key skill: Performing and coordination Use your body as a musical instrument! Combine clapping, stamping, clicking, patting your knees and other safe body percussion sounds to create a performance. - Create a sequence of at least four different body percussion sounds. - Repeat the sequence without stopping.	Explore the Elements of Music Key skill: Understanding musical vocabulary Explore how music changes by experimenting with the different elements of music. Use your voice, body percussion or household objects to demonstrate each element. Try to demonstrate: - Dynamics: Loud and quiet. - Tempo: Fast and slow. - Pitch: High and low. - Texture: One sound or several sounds together.

- What mood or atmosphere does the music create? - Write a short review explaining what you liked or disliked and why.	- Add a contrasting section with a different rhythm. - Perform it confidently to a family member.	- Structure: Repeating sections and contrasting sections. - Duration: Long and short sounds. - Challenge: Create a short piece of music that includes at least four of these elements.
Music from Around the World Key skill: Musical knowledge and cultural understanding Explore music from a different country or culture. Listen to traditional music from Africa, India, South America, the Caribbean or another part of the world. - Find out where the music comes from. - What instruments and sounds can you hear? - What is different about its rhythm, melody or tempo? - Can you identify any similarities to music you already know?	Become a Music Producer Key skill: Layering and composition Imagine you are producing your own music track. Use your voice, body percussion and household sounds to record different musical parts (if you have access to a phone or tablet). - Record a steady beat using clapping or tapping. - Record a rhythm to go over the beat. - Add a vocal melody or spoken words. - Layer the recordings to create a complete piece of music.	Film Music Challenge Key skill: Composition, mood and expression Imagine you are writing the soundtrack for a film. Choose a scene from an imaginary film: a scary forest, a superhero rescue, a space adventure or an exciting sporting event. - Decide what mood you want your music to create. - Choose sounds that help create that mood. - Use changes in tempo and dynamics to build excitement or tension.

- Create your own short piece inspired by something you have heard.	- Think about how you could make the different sounds work together. No recording device? Perform each layer separately and ask someone at home to join in.	- Include a repeating rhythm or melody. - Perform your soundtrack while someone narrates your film scene.

Key websites to help your child practice the above key skills:

EYFE & KS1	
Home-learning activity	Recommended website
1. Body Percussion Band	BBC Bring the Noise / NYCOS
2. Sound Detectives	BBC School Radio / Take Art
3. Make Your Own Shakers	BBC Bring the Noise
4. Musical Statues	CBeebies / Royal Opera House
5. Copy My Rhythm	NYCOS / Voices Foundation
6. Sing It, Change It!	
7. High or Low?	

KS2	
Home-learning activity	Recommended website
1. Rhythm Creator	Beat Goes On
2. Sound Effects Challenge	BBC Compose Yourself
3. Become a Songwriter	Sing Up
4. Listening Detective	BBC Bitesize / LSO
5. Body Percussion	Beat Goes On / Ten Pieces
6. Elements of Music	BBC Bitesize
	BBC Teach
	BBC Compose Yourself

8. Create a Sound Story 9. Become a Music Conductor	Out of the Ark / Sing Education BBC Bitesize / Voices Foundation Royal Opera House / Take Art BBC Bring the Noise / Chetham's

7. Music Around the World 8. Become a Music Producer 9. Film Music Challenge	BBC Ten Pieces / BBC Bitesize