

Music in the Early Years



Learning about rhythm and dynamics in a music session.



Learning to play different percussion instruments during child initiated work.



Working collaboratively to sing songs and put on a show using puppets.

Music at Foundation Stage (Reception) is covered in the 'Expressive Arts and Design' area of the EYFS Curriculum. Music is introduced through activities that require the children to express themselves in different ways as they learn to experience making sounds in different ways.

Early Years Music helps the children develop skills in the prime areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum such as Communication and Language and Personal, Social and Emotional Development as they listen to sounds and music of different kinds and discuss how the particular sounds or music make them feel. They also learn to work independently when making music or as part of an ensemble.

Some of the Music work that the children become involved in is through them using readily available resources in the indoor and outdoor environments. Children may start working on an area of interest and then adults intervene to develop the children's learning through discussions and relevant enhancements. In this way, the children take ownership of the task while developing the skills and knowledge necessary to move their learning forward.

Music is carefully planned for in the curriculum. The children at St. Augustine's School work on half termly units of study which allow them to develop skills and knowledge in a more structured way. For example, the children spend several sequential sessions learning about sounds in the environment, body sounds, percussion sounds and appreciation of music. During this work, they learn about rhythm, dynamics and pace.

We provide a curriculum that links other curriculum areas into the children's work so for example during the children's work on 'Our Wonderful World' the children listened to environmental sounds. They also learned to make sounds in the environment using found materials. When studying Chinese New Year, the children used un tuned percussion in order to create their own dragon dance rhythms. This work allowed the children to perform for others and to enjoy the experience of live performance. When studying materials in science, the children learned about the different materials that instruments were made from and discussed the qualities of these materials in creating different sounds.

All this work in Reception, helps our children develop creativity, skills, knowledge and understanding, while developing their vocabulary of art, thus preparing them for their work in Year 1.