

Musical mark-making

Suitable for: 18months-5 years

You will need: Paper, coloured pencils/ pens and any music from the radio or online. To develop, you could also print manuscript paper from the internet.

- Choose a piece of recorded music and, whilst listening, you and your child can create shapes and patterns responding to the different sounds. (Some examples: *Flight of the Bumblebee* by Rimsky Korsakov. Britten's *Sea Interludes: Storm*. Kate Rusby's *Underneath the Stars*. *Happy* by Pharrell Williams).
- Or you could experiment creating vocal sounds. See what shapes or patterns you make if you make high/ low voice sounds or if you make short and snappy sounds. See this example <https://youtu.be/I8JJDjoeydE>
- You (or older children) could draw smiley faces if the music makes you feel happy or sad or angry faces for other styles.
- Experiment with different coloured pens - does a particular colour feel happy or sad? Think about different sounds for a chunky crayon compared to a thin pencil.
- Discuss, and perhaps write down, any words to describe your music or drawings.
- You could even print some blank manuscript paper from the internet and 'compose' your own music. If you know anyone who plays a musical instrument, could they improvise a tune inspired by your child's drawings?

Remember

You can't do it 'wrong'! Whether you create a page covered in dots and lines or an elaborate piece of art, we are all enjoying being creative and trying new things!

Did you know?

The French composer, Claude Debussy, wrote music that was inspired by paintings. He created sounds to reflect different colours, shapes and moods.

By Polly Ives, @Concerteenieswithpollyives

