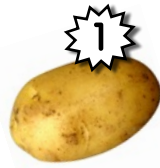




Music in the Home

Children are enthusiastic and highly competent musicians. You supply the place and time and they'll provide the music.



1 *If it sounds good, it is good.*

Wastepaper baskets and potatoes, just like any other musical instrument, can be played in many ways!



2

Accompany your singing child with a happy expression, swaying your body or by patting your knees quietly. Wait a moment...any other songs bubbling up? If not, make up your own song, maybe using some of the sounds and notes that the child used and offer it to your children!

3



Henry Van Dyke said "The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best". His words seem to be prophetic, as we increasingly rely on easily obtainable, ready-made music and less on making our own music in our families and communities. We tend to think of music as a performance which should have certain qualities to which we cannot aspire. Think instead of music as play - playful, communicative sound-making. Your voice is part of you. You and your voice is beautiful no matter what anyone says.

4

Vocalisations (mouth noises) aid voice control and warm up voices before singing. Use meaningful, expressive vocalisations as well as speech.



5

Children who won't join in but like to watch are gaining a great deal from their experience

6

Nee nor. nee nor!



Add interesting sounds to stories. "May woke up this morning when her alarm rang (bells). She marched to the bathroom (drums) and brushed her teeth(fingers on corrugated card)". She hummed as she brushed and she brushed as she hummed...mmmm mmmmm

7

Use sound makers that you like the sound of - or modify them. Jingle bells - too loud? - put them in a sock!



8

It's not all about songs or instruments. Lycra, sari material, toys, dens, scarves and chopsticks are valuable pieces of equipment. Take the child's lead and fold, gather, stretch or sort. Hum or sing as you do and then be silent and wait to see what happens next.

9

Sing requests! Make up a song on the spot that describes what you want to happen. Or use a tune you know, like "London Bridge is Falling Down" or "Frere Jacques" to sing "Now it's time to tidy up" or "Put your boots on, Put your boots on".

10

Big cheers and whoops after the child's song are not necessary. Singing is a normal everyday thing. Over the top praise may put off the quieter child who might want to venture a song. Say that you really enjoyed the song and look pleased.

www.chimpchamps.co.uk for more info, ideas and songs