



Below are some general tips for working with your child or children at home using ABC Creative Music Early Years Resources. We hope these are helpful. Have fun doing these at home and don't worry about getting it right or wrong - just doing some music together will not only count towards valuable home education but will brighten your day, we promise!

We have made the ABC Homeschool in response to the corona pandemic, so we are getting as much material as we can as soon as we can. Please excuse us for the delay and for any rough edges as we get things set up.

Go to www.abcmusic.org.uk or www.abcmusichomeschool.org.uk, click on Free Trial, and select a Parent's Licence.

Space - make sure you have enough space to dance and move around. Clear the floor of trip hazards and of course lego. (Ouch!) Make sure the floor surface isn't slippy.

Lead by example - you need to move and dance to the music. Children learn from adults and if we show them that listening to or moving to music is normal, they will have the confidence to do that too.

Don't be scared! - there is no right or wrong way to do this. You don't need to be a musician, or even to feel you are musical to use ABC Music Resources. We have designed all our activities for non-specialist teachers and educators to use with confidence.

Tech tips - you will need a speaker of some kind to attach to your phone, computer or tablet. These devices alone do not give enough volume for our activities to be delivered successfully. Do adjust the volume for the type of activity - for example if you are playing instruments, then turn up the volume, whilst listen activities are better done at a lower volume to encourage focussed listening.

Be flexible - our activities contain lots of ideas and guidelines, but they are just that - guidelines. Make the activities your own, using your or your child's ideas. Go with the flow.

Choosing an activity - we have an extensive choice of activities for you. The Early Years activities are divided up into Jigsaw Pieces to help you choose :-

Listen is at the heart and helps children to develop listening skills - we need to be listening to do any music activities.

Move contains activities that use gross motor skills.

Play Sounds uses musical instruments and helps develop fine motor skills.

Say & Sing encourages children to develop language skills through song.

Create often takes an activity from another part of the jigsaw and shows how to develop this into a creative lesson. We have recently added two new pieces to the jigsaw,

ABC & 123. These offer activities that combine music and numeracy or literacy. A win win for you!

We have put activities in the Jigsaw piece we think is the best match, but you will find lots of crossover and opportunity within a Move activity to include, for example, Playing Sounds.

Musicality Jigsaw



Music in Play - your child will be accustomed to child led learning through free-play. We have lots of ideas for how to go about this and it is a great way for children to learn. Use our **Drum Grooves** tracks for 15 minutes a day whilst your child is playing and ingrate music into your daily play routine.

Little and Often - for the best results, music should be done on a regular basis. Think about school music lessons - you have a class once a week then do regular home practice in between. This is true for all people, no matter age or ability. Choose a time each day to do your music and try to stick to it. Remember, take the weekends off - you need a break and children need time to process what they have learned!

Repeat repeat & repeat! If you do the same activities daily with your child, they will first of all learn the activity, then be able to go on and develop it by putting in their own ideas. Also, younger children repeat the same activities over and over again as part of learning. It's important for their development, so let them do their favourite things as many times as they like, for a long as they like (and you can bear it).

Move to the Beat - we all learn a new piece of music by first of all listening and finding the beat. the first thing you should do with every new activity is find the beat in your body. Wave your arms from side to side above your head, march to the beat, wiggle your bottom to the beat. Do very large clear gestures so your child can **see** where the beat is. Remember, you have been to many discos and you know all about the beat - you child is just finding out about this!

Added bonus - it's fun and gives us a little much needed physical activity when stuck indoors.

Instruments - you may have instruments at home already, but if not it's very easy to make a few of your own. Make a drum with chopsticks and an upside down plastic tub. Make a shaker with a plastic tub with a lid and some pasta inside - if pasta is scarce, a few wee stones will do the trick. Just screw that lid on tight! Let your child decorate these as they wish. Art class done too for the day - tick.

Trouble shooting - if it's not going well, pause the activity and turn off any backing track. Take a break. Try again from the beginning. Not every activity will work for you and your child - there is plenty to choose from, so if it seems not to be working at all, just move on and try something else.