

## Music – Home learning

Here are some quick and simple ways for working with songs and music. Keep in mind that with all of these activities, you can use material from anywhere. You can use songs from YouTube, but feel free to reference nursery rhymes from your childhood or even songs that you've heard on the TV or radio.

### Activity Songs

Make up songs about key moments of the day and sing them when making the transition from one activity to another. For example, you could compose a tidying up song by using the melody of *London Bridge is falling down*. Add words about tidying up, such as:

'When we stop and tidy up  
Tidy up, tidy up,  
When we stop and tidy up  
Who'll be the quickest/neatest/quietest?'

'When we stopped and tidied up  
Tidied up, tidied up,  
When we stopped and tidied up  
John was the quickest.'

Build up a resource of short songs like this and sing them as relevant throughout the day.

### Stop the Verse

Children (and adults!) often know the first verse and chorus of a song well but are much less certain of the other verses. Sing the third and fourth verse of a song they know and stop in the middle of a line before a crucial word. Your child must then finish off the verse.

## Just Breathe

Sing a chorus from a song they sing regularly. Breathe in all the wrong places. Look at the words and discuss where it would be better to breathe. What do they need to bear in mind?

## Warm up time

Invent warm-ups. Look at a favourite song and see if your child can invent some good warm-ups that are suggested by the song itself. It may be a little melodic or rhythmic motif that they can turn into a call-and-response warm-up or tongue twister based on a line of words.

## Musical Spoons

What You'll Need:

Old spoon

Ridged metal can

Run a spoon up and down the ridges of a metal can. You'll get a nice sound.

Think of other kitchen objects that you could use with a spoon to make music. Create your own song using all these instruments, and write your own lyrics. Then perform your musical melody for your family and friends.

## Rubber Band Instruments

What You'll Need:

Large, empty margarine tub

Lots of rubber bands

Empty tissue box

Adults should help kids with this project.

First stretch five to seven rubber bands around the container so that they go over the open end.

Practice plucking! Notice how a rubber band makes a high-pitched sound when pulled tightly across the top? It sounds deeper when you loosen it.

How does the sound change when you use an empty tissue box instead? Try tuning your rubber bands by loosening and tightening them.

## Drawing to Music

What You'll Need:

Sheets of paper

Colour pens/pencils

Choose some songs from YouTube (movie soundtracks work really well) and have your child create a piece of art based on the song. Don't tell them the name so they are coming up with something that is completely their imagination.

## Song Mixing

What You'll Need:

Radio

Paper

Pencil

If you've ever jumped from radio station to radio station in search of a better tune, you know how much fun this game can be. Turn your radio to the first available familiar tune, and write down the first phrase you hear.

Now turn to the next station, and write down the second phrase. Go to the next station, and the next, until you have six phrases. When you're done, read the phrases as a new song.

Now try to sing it! Did you wind up with a third song that's fun?

## Mood music

This is an excellent way to introduce the kids to different genres of music and the many emotions linked to them. This will help children connect actions with emotions.

What You'll Need:

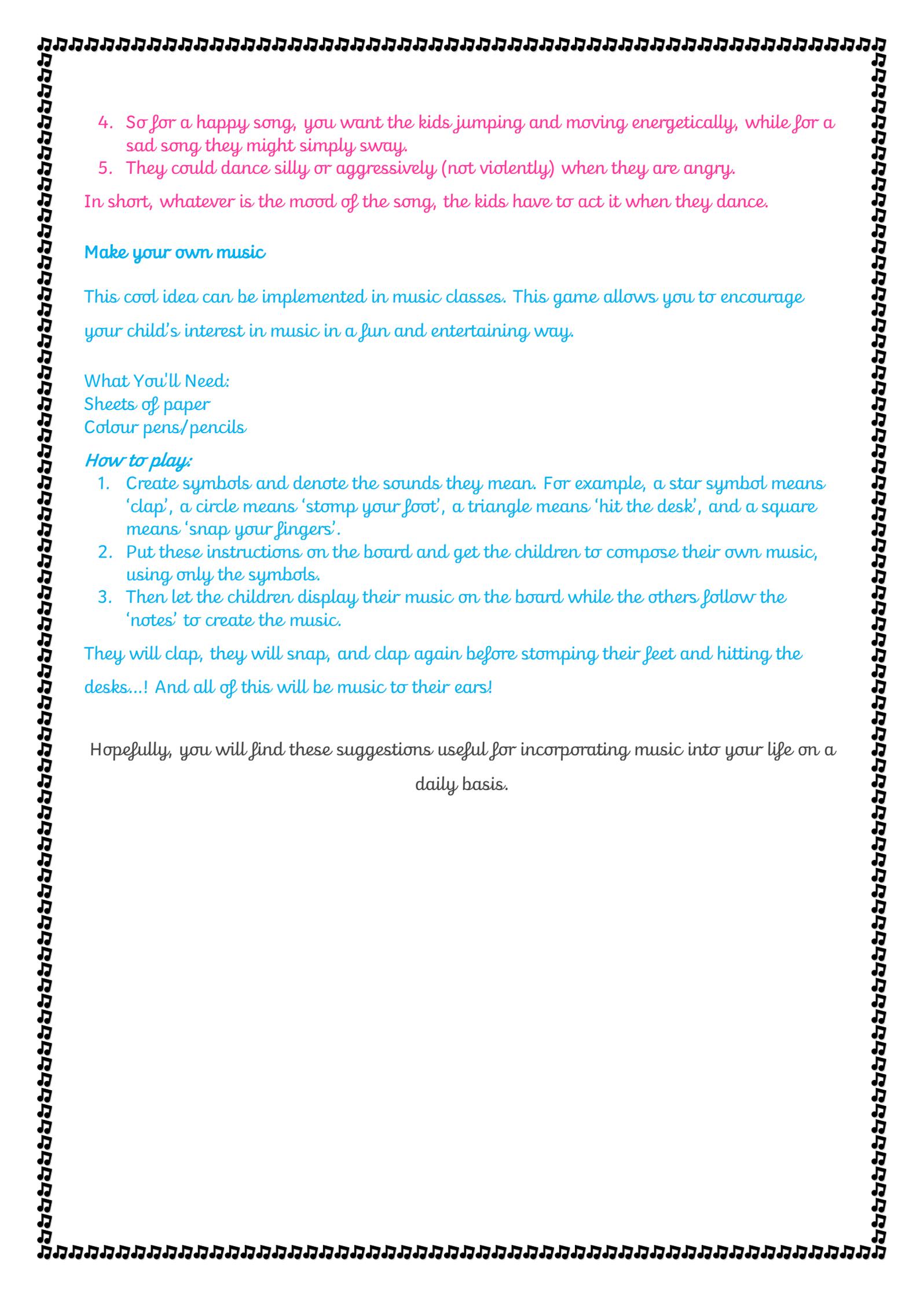
A collection of songs depicting different emotions – anger, happiness, sadness, and silliness

Music player

Space to dance

### How to play:

1. Make sure you pick songs that are appropriate for the child's age.
2. Then explain the game to the kids and ask them how they would behave when they are happy, sad, cross, etc.
3. Then tell them that they have to dance according to the mood of the song, which you will mention before playing it.

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4. So for a happy song, you want the kids jumping and moving energetically, while for a sad song they might simply sway.
  5. They could dance silly or aggressively (not violently) when they are angry.

In short, whatever is the mood of the song, the kids have to act it when they dance.

### Make your own music

This cool idea can be implemented in music classes. This game allows you to encourage your child's interest in music in a fun and entertaining way.

What You'll Need:

Sheets of paper

Colour pens/pencils

*How to play:*

1. Create symbols and denote the sounds they mean. For example, a star symbol means 'clap', a circle means 'stomp your foot', a triangle means 'hit the desk', and a square means 'snap your fingers'.
2. Put these instructions on the board and get the children to compose their own music, using only the symbols.
3. Then let the children display their music on the board while the others follow the 'notes' to create the music.

They will clap, they will snap, and clap again before stomping their feet and hitting the desks...! And all of this will be music to their ears!

Hopefully, you will find these suggestions useful for incorporating music into your life on a daily basis.