

## **Music in the Early Years at Fairfield's**

The roots of our Music curriculum can be found in our Foundation Stage through 'Expressive Arts and Design' provision. Our curriculum includes regular singing sessions in which we learn rhymes, songs and poems. We also listen to music from around the world, and encourage children to respond to what they have heard and express their thoughts and feelings. We learn to be creative with sounds, using our imaginations to show feelings and ideas. In Early Years we make Music using our voices and instruments. We provide plenty of opportunity for musical stimulation, listening and interaction in a fun and playful way. We have a Charanga music session once a week to develop important musical skills and develop our musical vocabulary.

We sing songs to make things happen, for example 'tidy up', 'wash your hands', 'welcome' songs or songs for celebrations and call and respond songs to practise listening skills.

In Early Years we use parts of our bodies to create sounds along to the beat, for example stamping our feet and clapping our hands. We encourage movement to the sound of music and repeat movements in a pattern, in order to create dance sequences. We also dance to show emotions and copy movements.

Our Early Years curriculum allows children to explore basic instruments and investigate the different sounds they make; we play along to the beat of music, tap out simple rhythms; change the tempo (slow/fast), volume (loud/quiet) and pitch (high/low).

Both Nursery and Reception have free access to musical instruments and are encouraged to make music and enhance their role play using the readily available resources. Our musical instruments can be made out of many objects, e.g. spoons, pans, cups and boxes but we also teach the children how to hold/use different instruments correctly (e.g. percussion instruments/ xylophone). We experience playing the Djembe drums in Reception, and Nursery use simple percussion and bells in their Christmas performance to parents.

We have stage areas outside in which the children are encouraged to perform songs and make music on to an audience. At Fairfield's we know that the quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe. Our children move forward into Key Stage One with the skills and knowledge that they need for their next step of learning in Music.