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The Early Years Foundation Stage and mark making

The key areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage that links with music and dance are:

- Creative Development
 - Being Creative – Responding to Experiences, Expressing and Communicating Ideas
 - Exploring Media and Materials
 - Creating Music and Dance
 - Developing Imagination and Imaginative Play
- Physical Development
 - Movement and Space
 - Health and Bodily Awareness
 - Using Equipment and Materials
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
 - Dispositions and Attitudes
 - Self-confidence and Self-esteem
 - Making Relationships
 - Behaviour and Self-control
 - Sense of Community
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
 - Communities

Two-year-olds enjoy making their own music, using simple everyday objects to make sounds, their voices and their hands. They may enjoy performing, and demonstrating what they can do, for their relatives or visitors. Similarly, they will dance to music and copy adults by moving their bodies in the same way or improvise with their own movements.

At home, two-year-olds often begin appreciating music and dancing in the following ways:

Euan (two years, four months) has a box containing at some simple instruments at home; he has a wooden shaker his mum bought from a charity shop, a small tambourine, a plastic egg which is a shaker, a small drum, some spoons and a balti dish. Euan likes to tip all these out and work his way through the instruments. He engages in this on his own but likes his mum to listen to his music.

When Euan goes outside he makes sounds using some empty flowerpots like drums and sticks. He likes using the large ones as they make a different sound to the others. His granddad encourages him and also plays tunes on the base of flowerpots using a stick.