

Questions you can explore with children whilst listening to music

The questions listed below include both open-ended and closed questions. Closed questions were at times easier for children to answer and we felt they were needed to help focus children's listening.

Open ended questions were used when we felt that children were able to listen without the need to be guided in what to listen *for*.

Early Questions

1. Do you like this music?
2. Is this music...loud/quiet/fast/slow?
3. Is this happy/fun/sleepy music?
4. Is this sad/angry/scary music?

Developing...

1. How does this music make you feel?
2. Which instruments can you hear?
3. Can you tell me when the music changes?
4. Which of these pieces would be good to listen to when you are happy/sad?
5. Would you play this music to help a baby fall to sleep?
6. Would you play this music to celebrate?
7. When should we play music?
8. What do you like about the music?
9. What do you not like about the music?
10. Who would listen to this music? –at home, at nursery, your friends, pictures of people?

Complex questions

11. What shall we call this piece of music?
12. What story does this music tell you?
13. Does this music sound like any of the pictures?
14. What can you hear?
15. What does this music make you think of?
16. What kind of music sounds like your character, e.g., witch, dragon....