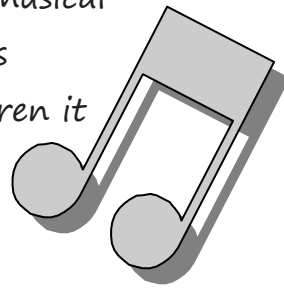# Why Music???

For young children, music is part of daily life. Most children enjoy music and they respond positively and instinctively to it. They like to dance and bob around to CDs and tapes; make sounds with instruments and toys; laugh and giggle at finger plays and knee bounces, and join in with songs they know well. There are many ways in which adults can share music with young children and incorporate music experiences into their daily program. Music can fit naturally into care giving routines, be part of play, and form the basis of sociable experiences for groups of children.

Music can also be used to enhance learning and development in areas as diverse as language, memory, listening, physical and social skills. Music involves children in both emotional and physical responses to their environment. It is also an experience that offers many opportunities for enjoyable interactions, especially between young children and adults. Participating in pleasurable and appropriate music experiences can also help young children build self-confidence and self-esteem. Music offers young children a means of expression and an outlet for their creativity. This self-expression is especially important for younger children who may not yet have acquired the language skills that enable them to express their feelings, thoughts and needs in words.

Making music part of the daily program has a positive impact on the environment as well as the children. A rich aural environment can also help nurture children's musical development in the same way that a language-rich environment stimulates literacy and language learning. As music is highly enjoyable for young children it can enhance the quality of routines, learning across the curriculum and interactions between children and adults. Making music together can truly make everyone's day.

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