



THE SPARK'S CREATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT



DISCOVER... RHYTHM **BITESIZE EDITION**

This menu of learning resources has been handpicked to give you an idea of how the full Toolkit can be used as a pick n mix to create a full learning opportunity to discover different art forms, artists to support you to have fun, creative adventures with your child/ren

These activities are from the **DISCOVER... RHYTHM** section of [The Spark's Creative Learning Toolkit](#)

Inspiration

The resource below is to be used as inspiration to introduce the sort of artwork you might produce when using the resources that follow...



Art



Music

Wassily Kandinsky – artist ([resource](#))

This cartoon that explains Kandinsky's work in a fun way (a little twee, but nice and simple!). Kandinsky created paintings that represented music – different shapes and colours relate to different instruments and sounds. The cartoon is 7mins19. As it's on YouTube you will need to skip the adverts at the start



Art



Music

An Animation of Kandinsky's Composition VIII ([resource](#))

A very short (51secs), well-crafted animation which brings one of Kandinsky's paintings to life through music beats. Great to watch several times over and discuss the different sounds linking to the different shapes and movements

Short warm up activity

This activity is intended to set the scene for a longer task and should be used as a tool to inspire discussion around the key themes. This activity is intended to last 15 minutes or less...



Music

Rhythm Play Express – Dave 'Stickman' Higgins ([resource](#))

A variety of rhythmic songs created by one of The Spark's Artists in Residence, Dave 'Stickman' Higgins. This project was produced with foundation stage children in mind, but isn't restricted to this age group. Each song encourages physical movement, vocal repetition and participation (it's worth listening to tracks ahead of using them in order to get together any materials you may need eg. Cushions for 'Cushion Mountain')

Medium Length Activity

An explorative activity to support learning about using natural materials to create creative tools / artwork and exploring the work of famous artists. This activity can last between 30mins – 2 hours, depending on the depth of exploration...



Art



Music

Creating Art to Music ([resource](#))

A gentle step by step guide into unlocking your senses and learning how to listen to and respond to different sounds. This can be used as a practice activity for the following one...



Art



Music

Mark Making to Music

Give children a variety of interesting (dry) mark making resources to use – chalk/charcoal, chunky crayons, glitter pens, highlighter pens etc. Discuss the term 'mark making' and model some examples for them to refer to, thinking aloud while doing so (you can do this to music after the initial explanation too). Ask them to respond with marks to the different 'songs' below. You can talk about feelings, emotions, shapes, colours etc throughout this activity.

Suggested songs:

(Upbeat) [Happy](#) by Pharell Williams (Official music video on YouTube)

(Classical) [The Beautiful Danube](#) by Johann Strauss

(Jazz) [Kind of Blue](#) (album) by Miles Davies – This is the full album, just play a few minutes.

(NB. You will need to skip the ads on YouTube)

(Disney) [Circle of Life](#) from The Lion King - (NB. You will need to skip the ads on YouTube)

(Relaxing) [Relaxing music](#) – rainforest sounds, birdsong etc

(Funk/Afrobeat) [Yaaba Funk](#) – any of the songs in the link will work!

Longer Project

Intended to use the skills learnt from the shorter activities to develop a bigger piece of work, bringing lots of ideas together, to create land art. This could be used to let the children do a final presentation or exhibition to share what they have discovered



Art



Music

Create a Wall of Sound

Building upon the 'Mark Making to Music' activity. You will need a large wall space to do this, where you can work from the floor, up to standing / reaching up level. Cover the wall in paper / cardboard, with enough space for your group to stand side by side and work together. As an alternative, this could be done on the floor / playground using chalks

Ask children to sit / kneel on the floor and give them all suitable mark making materials (crayons / chalks / highlighters etc). Start with a calm genre of music (eg relaxing or classical) and ask children to make marks at the bottom of the paper in response. Next, ask them to kneel. Change the music tempo – this time choose jazz – and ask them to mark make above their previous drawings to this. Then, ask them to stand and repeat the process to a funk track. Finally, ask them to reach up and mark make to an upbeat song. The result should be a visual wall of sound – moving from gentle to expressive marks. There's no right or wrong and you can experiment with different mark making materials, different orders of songs etc to see what different responses you get. This activity is all about encouraging expression and seeing how others respond (NB. If it's only one child participating, you, the grown up, can work alongside them!) – working side by side on a collaborative 'artwork' is a great experience too and gives plenty of space for discussion and teamwork



**We hope you find this Creative Learning Toolkit useful
and would LOVE to see what you produce!**

Please share your creations with us on Facebook at *The Spark's Creative Learning Toolkit Group* or email nicola@thesparkarts.co.uk with any feedback you have...

THANK YOU AND KEEP CREATING!