



**Before
Birth**

A baby in the womb can hear sounds from 20 weeks after conception



**0 - 18
Months**

From conception to eighteen months your baby is developing rapidly and its response to musical activity will not only be rewarding but highly beneficial to his or her general development

At birth babies can hear high-pitched noises, may be calmed by lower sounds and can locate sound in front of them. They will be startled by a loud or sudden sound.

By four weeks they prefer high-pitched sounds and start to respond to the sound of your voice. They will recognise whether sound is coming from behind or in front.

From three months they may respond actively to music by, for example, swaying and turning towards the sound and vocalising vowel sounds like "Aaah", "Eee" and "Ooo"

At 20 weeks they begin to recognise familiar voices and respond differently to the sound of strange voices

By six months they start imitating sounds e.g. Boo! La!

At 28 weeks they will look towards sounds from above and below and tell tunes apart

By nine months they respond to familiar songs

Their singing may follow a familiar melodic pattern

From one year they will begin to lose the capacity to hear high-pitched sounds but start to discover musical pulse, and create sounds by banging everyday objects

Some babies say their first words as early as eight months. Many begin to talk around eighteen months and some take a little longer. Singing with your baby could speed up this process.



18 months
- 3 years

By eighteen months your baby may start to respond to music in a coordinated way
Language skills can develop further through singing and imitation
Moving and responding to music can help develop memory and hand/eye coordination
They will learn to distinguish between loud and quiet, fast and slow
They begin to be aware of a beat in the music and recognise different rhythms
They will learn the words to simple songs and develop the coordination needed to play simple instruments i.e. simple drums or bells
This is when they begin to find out how to cooperate with other children



3 - 5 years

Your child may begin to become more aware of pitch and rhythm
They will learn to sing more complex songs as language skills grow and their vocal chords develop
They can cope with more sophisticated movement to music
They will take pleasure in playing and exploring new sounds and instruments



5 - 7 years

Your child will acquire new vocal strengths and increase their range
They will develop a better memory of music through repetition of songs and patterns and an understanding of simple musical concepts
They will be able to play simple percussion instruments and, given the opportunity, will be able to pick out tunes on instruments such as keyboards or xylophones
Some may develop a passion for pop music now, though some start earlier
This is a crucial age for encouragement as many children especially boys stop singing naturally and are often reluctant to persevere with playing a musical instrument.



7 - 11 years

Your child will perform and compose with greater confidence
They may want to learn an instrument
They will become more computer literate and discover music technology
Their taste in music will develop
They will learn to improvise
They will start to discuss and evaluate music



11 - 14 years

Your child will experience the physical changes of puberty and adolescence
From as early as 11 a boy's voice may start to change and a girl's voice will deepen. This varies for each child and can happen much later.
They may take up a musical instrument, or even a second one
They will decide whether or not to take Music GCSE or Standard in Scotland
They will develop vocal technique and vocal expression
They may learn to think more critically and analytically about music
They will have a more advanced knowledge of computers and ICT
They might begin thinking about a career in music
They will develop their own musical identity
They may develop a passion for challenging music



14 - 16 years

Your child may consider taking music beyond GCSE or Standard at school
They may consider a career in music - be it a DJ or a classical conductor
If it has not already, a boy's voice may start to change and a girl's voice will deepen. This varies from child to child.
They will learn to articulate their views on music and justify their passions
They may decide to learn an instrument, or even a second one



16+ years

Your child may plan further study at a University or college
They may take the first steps towards a career in music