



The Muddy Puddle Teacher

Music | EYFS | Ideas Pack

This pack has a selection of ideas to get music outside

BEE GREEN AND ONLY PRINT IF YOU HIVE TO :)

WWW.THEMUDDYPUDDLETEACHER.CO.UK



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The Muddy Puddle Teacher Approach



What is our approach about?

Teaching outside is not easy! It's easy to fall into the trap of just teaching outside because it keeps your head teacher happy. Teaching outside can add a lot of value to your teaching and the children's learning but only if it's done right! If you haven't already trained with us then we advise that you get fully trained on our Muddy ways. But if you're only looking to use our resources remember the three Muddy Ms in everything that you do. All of our Muddy teachers use these to remind themselves why being outside adds purpose to their lessons.



Move



Keep your lessons active and MOVE!
Run, jump, hop, skip and walk!

Mother Nature



Connect with Mother Nature and use the natural waste around you.
Ditch that plastic today!

Mental Strength



Promote positivity and make outside learning inclusive for all your children. Drop the competitions and stickers, and bond together instead!

Summary

This activity pack will give you lots of ideas and ways to take music outside in the early years. Doing music activities outdoors can be a lot of fun and you'll be surprised to hear that it will help you reduce the noise levels your class! What's more? Children will get the opportunity to have fun, experiment and show off their creative flare.

As always, our activities involve using only natural items. This fantastic resource will help your children connect with nature, learn lots about science and enjoy all the benefits of a fun and engaging music lesson!

How can outdoor music benefit your children?

- For children with sensory issues, outdoor music can have a dramatic impact on sound echoing and can have a calming effect.
- Searching for natural sounds, like bird noises or the chiming of branches, can have a positive impact on the creativity of your children.
- Creating outdoor music can be a very collaborative activity as children can experiment with different sounds together.
- Outdoor music can also help increase the concentration of your children and allows them to be more active.
- Incorporating music into outdoor lessons can make it much easier to teach other subjects like science. It also helps children to learn about their environmental footprint and why it's important to avoid using plastic instruments.

The preparation

- Before starting our activities, you'll need to gather some sticks. Go on a staff meeting walk or go for a walk at the weekend on your own. If you can, buy some air drying clay as well. This can be bought cheaply off Amazon and basically acts like outside glue. What's more, it's natural and isn't harmful to nature if bits get left behind.
- Have a staff meeting about your rules and what children are allowed to make. Make sure all staff members are clear on the safety rules they need to adhere to.
- It's essential that you have good outdoor policies in place. You'll also need to ensure that children are appropriately dressed and that parents are aware of this new type of learning you're doing with their child.
- If you still need further support on preparing these activities, don't worry! Our website is filled with great tips that can help prepare you for these activities.

Did you know?

Mud is an old English word that has been with us since at least the 1400s!



Sticks can be a child's most perfect toy!

Quick and easy songs

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The Muddy stick song for teachers



"Sticks stay low they tickle our toe. If they go high, they poke us in the eye!"

Down in the woods

Before starting this activity, search for the "Down in the jungle" song on YouTube. Then get the children to find two sticks and encourage them to tap these together to find the beat of the song.

Once the children are familiar with the beat, change the lyrics of the song to teach the children about their native animals like owls, foxes, mice and badgers. Then talk about the different noises and actions for each animal.

Row, row, row your boat

Ask the children to work in pairs and find some wooden sticks for oars. Then get them to find some leaves, sticks and stones to make a 2D flat version of a boat. Once they've created this, get them to sit in it facing each other with their oars at the ready. Use this activity as an opportunity to discuss the shape of the boat and explain what oars are, and why they're needed.

Then sing our version of the nursery rhyme "Row, row, row your boat":

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream
If you see a crocodile, don't forget to scream!

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the Nile
If you see a camel
Don't forget to smile!

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the river
If you see a polar bear
Don't forget to shiver!

Row, row, row your boat
Gently to the shore
If you see a lion there
Don't forget to roar!

**"Let Nature be
your teacher." -
William
Wordsworth**

Once I caught a fish alive

This is a quick and easy song to take outside. Give the children some leaves that they can use as fish and then get the children to sing this song:

One, two, three, four, five
Once I caught a fish alive.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten
Then I let it go again.

While the children sing the first two lines of the song, get them to pick up their leaf and pretend it's a fish. Then get them to sing the last two lines of the song and watch the fish fall to the floor. Make this game more challenging by adding numbers to the leaves and getting the children to hold them up as they count.

**Train as a Muddy Puddle
Teacher and have and upskill
go become an outdoor
teacher.**

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Rhythm, volume and pitch

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Muddy drummers

Inspire the Muddy musicians in your class, by getting them to pretend they're drummers in a band. How? By simply giving them some sticks that they can tap against items in your space! Get the children to try their sticks out on surfaces that will produce contrasting sounds. Start by asking them to tap on trees to get a soft and hollow sound. Move on to tapping on a school metal bin to make a tiny but loud sound. Then get the children to discuss why each surface produces a different sound.

Once the children have finished their discussion, encourage them to choose a stick that's different in shape and size. Get them to discuss whether the noise has changed again and if so, why. Guide the children by talking about pitch, volume and tone. Then move onto scraping. Get each child to scrape their stick along the wall, floor and fence; and discuss the different sounds. Talk about how sound travels through vibrations.

Stone symbols

If you aren't confident that your class is ready to safely use rocks, try doing this activity with pebbles. Get the children to make all sorts of different symbols. Encourage them to use rocks, pebbles and sticks of different shapes and sizes. Start this activity by getting children to create a set of drums. They can then practise a beat by bashing the rocks together and singing a song. Observe if the children can follow the beat and the tune of the song.

Sticky beats

By the time you come to this activity, children will have had plenty of time to explore different sounds. This activity will get them started on creating their own beat. Why is this important? Because this sort of music play helps children to increase their core and fine motor skills which enable them read, write and sit at a desk. So it's not just about getting children excited about music. It's also about strengthening their ability to read and write!

Ask the children to find a stick and follow your rhythm by tapping on a surface of their choice. Encourage them to try the floor, the benches or even the fences. It might take children some time to get used to following the beat. Practise stopping and starting so that you can see if they can all follow the beat at the same time. Pick up the pace by trying two fast beats, followed by two slow beats or two loud beats, and two soft beats. Once you've finished experimenting, have a discussion about the beat.

Leaf tambourines

It's important to explain to children that music doesn't always have to be loud. Talk to children about how soft tones contrast with louder tones and how they can create emotion in a piece of music. Ask them to think about their emotions and how they would react in different circumstances. Would they shout if they were sad? Or be quiet if they were excited? Following this discussion, ask the children to find a stick and thread some leaves onto it. Instruct them to do this by piercing the leaf in the middle and then threading it over the top. Get the children to give the stick a shake and listen to the soft and subtle flowing sound it makes.

Then split the class into two groups. Get one group to shake their leaves, while the other group waits for their turn. Play around with this and see how the children respond. Once you're confident that the children have mastered their leaf tambourines, get them to try creating a class song using their new instruments.

Make sure children wash their hands after activities and discuss safe practices to avoid trapping fingers in rocks.



"Music can change the world." - Beethoven

Making instruments



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Did you know?

Making instruments outside is a lovely way to encourage us to reuse things before we buy new materials. Using up-cycled and natural items is also a great way to teach children about topics like materials, plastic pollution, forces and sound. Also, who knows? You might inspire one of your Muddy Puddlers to become an inventor that creates a more environmentally friendly material in the future! What's more? Studies show it's good for children to touch mud. Our Muddy team is committed to creating as many opportunities as possible for children to come into contact with healthy fats from mud. All our activities advocate for the use of lots of up-cycled items so remember to highlight to parents and others why this approach is so great for the environment!

Stone shaker

There are so many ways you can do this, so feel free to deviate and play around with the structure of this activity. Once you've tried it our way, you might even be inspired to create your own version and that's totally fine! Start this activity by asking children to make some hurdles. Get them to plant their sticks into the ground, spacing each one apart and then placing another stick on top to create a hurdle. Repeat this until you have enough of them.

Then get the children to practice jumping over them one by one. Lay some sticks down on the floor and get the children to balance on them. Or create an imaginary roundabout using two stick plants and get the children to run around them. You can also make some paths that children can walk through by lining up sticks and leaving some space in the middle. Complete these tasks in groups and encourage teams to challenge each other.

The world's greatest up-cycled drums

Split your class into three groups. Task group one with making a drum using only natural materials. Get group two to make a drum out of only up-cycled items. Group three can make their drum out of both natural and up-cycled items.

Once finished, ask each group to stand up and show their drum to the rest of the class. Have a debate on the benefits of each drum and discuss which worked best and why.

Re-using

There's nothing wrong with taking the instruments you have indoors into your outdoor space. The outdoor space can be very diffusing if you have a big group that's keen to use their instruments.

In fact, nature can be very inspiring! Wait for a rainy day and while your children take shelter, get them to mimic the pitter patter of the rain using their instruments. Children love doing this and it can be very special for them when they connect with music. If there's a thunderstorm, you can even get them to mimic those more intense sounds.

Stick-tastic guitar

This is a great team-building exercise that's versatile and very reminiscent of Art Attack! Ask the children to make a shape or animal using their sticks. Instruct them to use all their sticks to make an animal. A popular choice for this activity is making a hedgehog. Get children to start by making an outline of the animal and then adding the spikes. The idea here is that they create a large and flat 2D version of a hedgehog. You can make this activity more fun by getting teams to compete with one another to see who can make their animal first. Alternatively, you can get the children to guess which animal each team has made.

"Music is an outburst
of the soul." —
Frederick Delius



Muddy music | Home learning



Guess what? Learning is fun!

Today we did our music outside and used the sounds of nature to help us learning about volume, rhythm and pitch. We tapped sticks against different surfaces and used leaves as shakers. We also had lots of discussions about science and about where sticks come from, how sound travels and how nature can inspire us in a musical way.

Your Muddy task :)

If you have the time, try making a leaf shaker with your child. Don't worry this task is simple and will give you hours of Muddy fun! Before starting this activity, remind your child of the "hands first, then feet" rule when retrieving items. This will remind them to check for glass or animal mess before they pick up items off the ground.

- Go for a walk and get your child to find a stick that's no longer than their arm.
- Then find and collect lots of different types of leaves.
- Once your child has collected enough leaves, thread the leaves onto the stick by piercing the middle of the leaf with the point of the stick.
- Get your child to fill the stick with as many leaves as possible. Once the stick is full, the leaf shaker is ready!
- Get ready to sing and shake to the beat!



"[Kids] don't remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are."— Jim Henson,

Did you know?

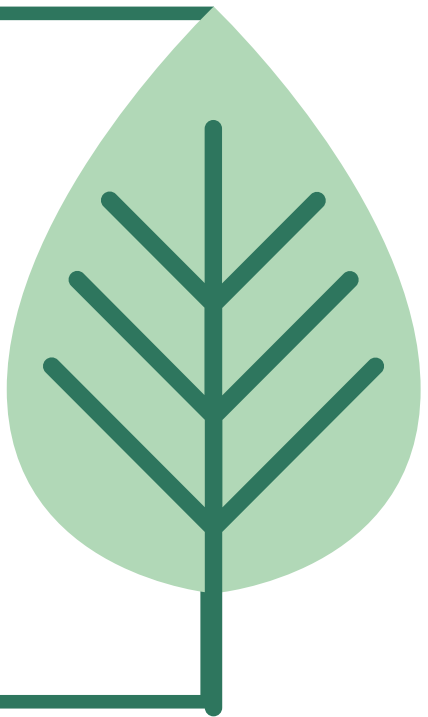
Studies have shown that children who play outside are smarter! Use this link to read more: <https://childmind.org/article/why-kids-need-to-spend-time-in-nature/>

Congratulations! 

To

.....

You have been awarded the
Muddy Music Award!



SignedDate.....

"LIFE IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION." -RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Message for parents!

If your child likes to learn outside then
check out our parent packs at:
www.themuddypuddleteacher.co.uk