

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Firework painting to music

Painting to music allows children to paint along with the song's rhythm and tempo, creating a work of art that shows how the music makes them feel.

This activity provides children with the opportunity to express themselves and create their very own firework art alongside music.

Learning aims

- To develop an understanding of, and share experiences of, fireworks
- To explore the medium of paint
- To be creative and expressive
- To develop listening and concentration skills
- To experience how something you hear can influence how you feel emotionally.



Resources

- Images of fireworks (photos or online)
- CD player (or means of playing music)
- A range of music with a mixed tempo, for example Handel's Royal Fireworks Overture (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuG1t2smdCQ>)
- A range of paint – poster paint, watercolour paint, food colouring mixed with water
- Large pieces of black paper
- A range of brushes and sponges
- Straws and pipettes.

Activity outline

1. Firstly, engage children in discussion about their experiences of fireworks and encourage them to share their knowledge. Explore some images of fireworks together and discuss the sounds they make and what they look like
2. Explain to children that they are going to have the opportunity to create their own firework pictures using a range of paints and applicators as they listen to music. The idea is to interpret the music, allowing this to influence what they create
3. To introduce this, firstly listen to a piece of music and explore with children how it makes them feel. Ask them what they notice in the music and if it reminded them of anything. For example, when the

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

tempo is fast does it make them feel like they want to move about faster and be more energetic or remind them of a giant and when the tempo is slow and soft does it make them feel more relaxed, calm and gentle

4. Next, introduce the concept of painting along to music. Explain that you want them to focus on the music as they are painting their fireworks and how the music makes them feel and to express their feelings through the way they paint. For example, when the tempo is fast this might make them want to paint big large splashes or splats of colour as the fireworks explode in the sky and when the tempo is slow they may make smaller, finer detail or blow through the straw to gently move the paint in different directions just as the fireworks do as they fall towards the ground
5. Explain that not all music will make everyone feel the same and there is no right or wrong way of expressing yourself, the important thing is to listen to the music and allow it to influence what they paint and importantly to have fun
6. Set up the activity resources, start the music and allow children to create their firework art
7. Take note of how music influences different children in different ways.

Extending the activity

- Use a larger canvas outdoors, such as old bed linen to allow children to express themselves using their whole bodies
- Use music for other forms of expressive art, such as during dance and movement. The 'Carnival of the Animals' by Saint-Saens or 'Peter and the Wolf' by Prokofiev are accessible pieces of music which lend themselves to these activities.

Special considerations

Important: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Extending the activity

- [Art of Expression and Creativity – publication](#)