



### Five things to do with under threes: expressive arts and design

Regularly sing songs and do action rhymes with your child including old favourites and new ones. YouTube is a good source for new songs if you want a change from The Maple Tree selection.

Have times where you encourage your child to listen and respond to music – try and play them a variety of different kinds of music including your favourites, simple pieces of classical music, pop and children's songs. They will enjoy making shakers themselves (with help and supervision) and using these to create their own sounds. Help them to think about the music they hear and start to describe it such as 'happy music' or 'fast or slow' music.

Encourage children to move in different ways and provide words to help them describe what they are doing 'slithering' like a snake or 'squelching' in mud.



Provide lots of flexible and open-ended resources for children to engage in pretend play such as old pans and wooden spoons, dressing up clothes, natural materials like small stones or sand as well as imaginative 'small world' toys such as construction kits, animal sets, play people.

Provide different materials for children to express themselves artistically including paint, pencils, playdough, chinks, glue. Remember that the important thing is to allow children the opportunity to explore different materials rather than having a finished 'product'. If you don't like mess, try doing this outside or bring them to The Maple Tree where they can experiment freely.