

# Music and Basic Skills

Music enriches children's development and learning performance, even when you use music as a medium during other lessons! How can you use the music package for the development of basic skills?

We are happy to give you tips and ideas on how to integrate musical instruments into your lessons. These ideas might even inspire you to discover new ways to use music in your classroom!




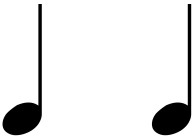




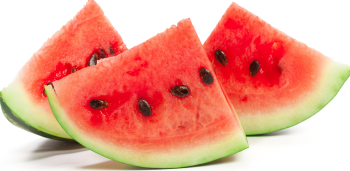

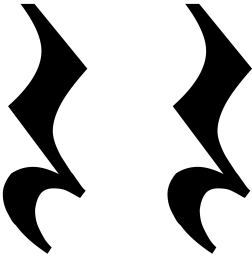
## Language Skills and Citizenship

Rhythm is a powerful tool for mastering words and sentences. Think about where the stress or emphasis lies in a word. Or which syllables follow quickly and where we slow down. If you want to link the lesson below to citizenship, choose words that relate to a social theme or another language or culture.

### Fruit Rhythms

To start, we have devised 'fruit rhythms.' These rhythms are also available as separate PDFs. Each rhythm lasts two beats, and the notes indicate how often you should clap. By coming up with your own sequence, different rhythms emerge. Can the students clap along or play along with the instruments?

By integrating music into your lessons in this way, students can develop basic skills in a playful and interactive manner.

 <b>Pear</b> 	 <b>Apple</b> 	 <b>Coconut</b> 
 <b>Strawberries</b> 	 <b>Watermelon</b> 	 <b>Rest</b> <b>Rest</b>

## Start Rhythm

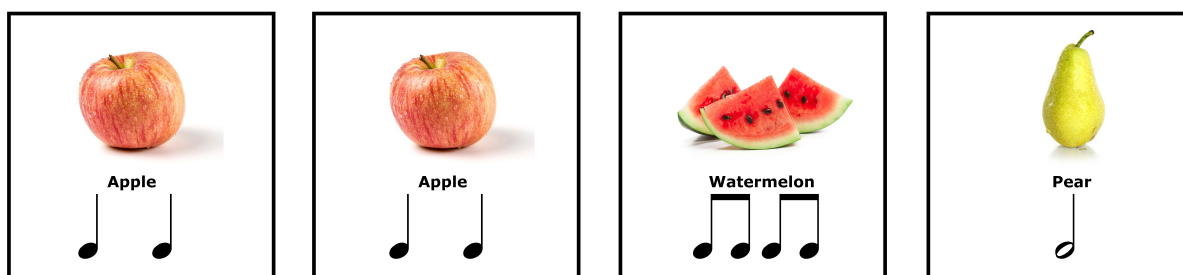
Begin with the separate rhythms and discuss them together. For example, how do you count "apple"? It's important that all rhythms are played at the same tempo. Count to 4 before starting, as this is the number of beats in a measure. This way, the students learn the importance of counting down to start together and keeping the tempo.

Below you will find the rhythms as an example, programmed in Song Maker:

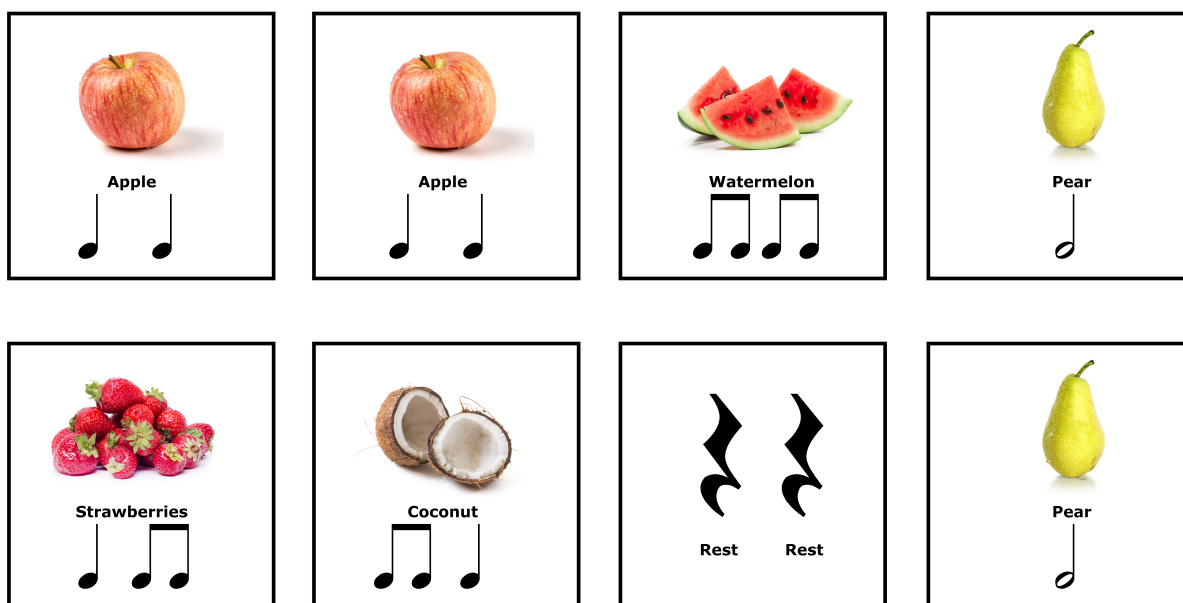
- Pear [click here](#)
- Apple [click here](#)
- Coconut [click here](#)
- Strawberries [click here](#)
- Watermelon [click here](#)
- Rest [click here](#)

Practice the rhythms by repeating them several times, for example, 4x "coconut" in a row. Let the students say the words as well as play them. During 'rest', make no sound, but keep counting. Come up with a movement with your students that you can do during 'Rest' to be able to maintain the pace.

Have you practiced well? Then come up with new combinations together! Start with 4 rhythms in a row, for example.



And challenge the students to create and play longer rhythms



## Our Tips for Variation or Expansion

- Make the fruit rhythms more challenging by having students come up with new words that fit the 5 rhythms. The lesson package includes blank worksheets that you can fill in.
- Adapt the words for different themes, such as seasons, Sinterklaas, Christmas, or Carnival. Choose the words in advance yourself or make it a class assignment.
- Let your students work in groups to create their own combinations of the 5 rhythms and present them to the class with the instruments, or have them play each other's rhythms.
- Organize a rhythm battle.
- Play the rhythm without saying the word. The students guess what word it is.
- Let students come up with their own sentence, write it down in rhythm, and present it to the class with the instruments.

## Learning Objectives by Group

Groep 1/2	Say words and clap together. Create a rhythm as a class.	Fruit rhythm of 4 bars
Groep 3/4	Create longer rhythms as a class. Let children work in groups to create a rhythm themselves.	Fruit rhythm of 8 bars
Groep 5/6	Create longer rhythms as a class. Let children work in groups to create a rhythm themselves. Demonstrate and conduct in front of the class. Let them come up with their own rhythm words.	Fruit rhythm of 8 boxes
Groep 7/8	Create longer rhythms as a class. Let children work in groups to create a rhythm themselves. Let them come up with their own rhythm words. Let each group present their own rhythm or have a rhythm battle with other groups.	Fruit rhythm of 8 or 16 boxes

## Tips for Using the Instruments

To ensure that the instruments sound harmonious together, there are three different ways to distribute the colors across the class:

- Each rhythm is played by one color; this is called playing in unison.
- Play chords where the tones harmonize. By playing with three colors at the same time but skipping a letter each time, chords are formed. For example, have all children with red, yellow, and dark green instruments play the entire rhythm (CEG), or with dark purple, red, and yellow (ACE), or with dark green, pink, and orange (GBD).
- Assign each of the 5 rhythms to one color. Have the children with these 5 colors play an agreed order of rhythms together. Do the children hear a melody emerging?

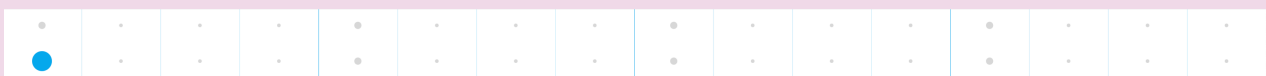
## Math Skills

With the following lesson idea, you not only help students understand rhythms but also teach them a lot about fractions. Music is built on rhythm, and a rhythm consists of different notes. Each note has its own length, and by alternating fast and slow notes, the rhythm is created. In the fruit rhythms, different musical notes are featured.

Below you see a whole measure divided into four parts, which we call beats.



When you clap only on the first beat, we call that a whole note.



When you clap on beats 1 and 3, you play two half notes.



When you clap on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4, you play quarter notes or 1/4 notes.



When we further divide the quarter notes in half, we get eighth notes. We count them as 1-and, 2-and, 3-and, 4-and.



When we divide the eighth notes in half, we get sixteenth notes. We count them, for example, as: 1-e-and-a, 2-e-and-a, 3-e-and-a, 4-e-and-a.



### Musical Notes Are Actually Fractions

For example, you can count 3/4 as: [click here](#).

By counting all 4 beats of the measure out loud but only clapping or playing the 3 programmed notes with an instrument, a rhythm quickly emerges. See if students can identify which fraction corresponds to which note! And can they also discover which fraction corresponds to the 'rest' symbol?

You can clap or play fractions with instruments this way. It makes your math lesson a lot more colorful!

### More Math Tips

- Practice multiplication tables. For example, the table of 4. Count up to 40 at a slow pace and see if students play the instrument on the correct numbers of the table.
- Can students guess which table someone is playing? Have one of the children wait outside the class and practice playing one of the tables with the rest of the class.
- Students can also program their own fractions or table rhythms in online programs like Song Maker [click here](#) or Drumbit [click here](#). Then you can play the rhythms together with the instruments.
- Have the children play a sum with the instruments. Or give a sum and have them play the answer in their own rhythm.
- Guessing game: Play a short rhythm and have the children count the number of notes. Then play the rhythm a little differently and have the children guess: Did notes get added or subtracted?

### Digital Skills

For the combination of the package with digital skills, we refer to the Example Music Lessons Colors Orchestra.

## Citizenship

Do you teach music lessons in your class? Great! Then you're already doing a lot for citizenship. Listening, collaborating, understanding each other, and developing creativity are fundamental aspects of music education. Below, we'd love to share additional ideas for incorporating citizenship into your music lessons. Of course, you can use the instruments from the package and Song Maker for this.

### **Let students create and/or perform their own musical piece in groups**

Making music is all about collaboration: making joint decisions on how a piece should sound and finding solutions to musical challenges. Encourage students to discuss structure, key, tempo, and dynamics. By giving each other space and understanding what others want to express, they work together to create something truly special.

### **Create an open and safe atmosphere**

Performing can be nerve-wracking, so establish clear agreements on what it means to be a "good audience." This helps students treat each other with respect. Set clear goals for the music lesson, such as fostering an environment where everyone feels free to present and is allowed to make mistakes. Regularly discuss whether these agreements are effective.

### **Share your favorite music or interview family and friends**

What does music mean to your students? Music is often tied to special moments like holidays, performances, and memories. Encourage students to share their favorite song and explain what it means to them. This can spark valuable conversations about identity, emotions, dreams, values, and beliefs. Inspire students to interview others about their musical habits—such as family members or neighbors—and incorporate these insights into the music lesson. This gives everyone the opportunity to understand and appreciate musical differences, contributing to personal development.

### **Surprise with 'unknown' music**

Unfamiliar music allows students to discover new worlds. It sparks their curiosity, broadens their perspective, and teaches them to be open to both differences and similarities between people and cultures. Play traditional music from different cultures to highlight how music connects people and conveys stories in a fun and engaging way. Here are some examples of melodies from various countries and cultures:

- India: Ragas are melodies with a unique atmosphere, often associated with a specific time of day or season.
- Japan: Music frequently uses a five-tone (pentatonic) scale, heard in gagaku (ancient court music) or shakuhachi flute melodies.
- West Africa: Beautiful melodies and complex drum rhythms are common. A well-known instrument is the kora, a type of harp.
- Andes: Pan flutes like the zampoña create cheerful and distinctive melodies.
- Middle East: Music often features tones that are much closer together than in Western music, creating a unique atmosphere.
- Scotland: Bagpipes produce instantly recognizable music, often used in parades and special events.
- China: Traditional instruments like the guqin are used to create calm, meditative melodies.

By exploring these musical traditions, students gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity and richness of global music.

### **Let students explore protest songs**

Encourage students to research protest songs, examining their themes and how music serves as a form of social critique. Protest songs are a powerful way to foster critical citizenship.

Students can also create their own protest songs using Song Maker. This allows them to think creatively and freely about important social issues while forming their own opinions.

On the website [www.protestliedjes.nl](http://www.protestliedjes.nl), they can listen to playlists featuring various protest songs.

## Worksheet Downloads

### Fruit Rhythms

Pear:	<a href="#"><u>download pear rhythm here</u></a>
Apple:	<a href="#"><u>download apple rhythm here</u></a>
Coconut:	<a href="#"><u>download coconut rhythm here</u></a>
Strawberries:	<a href="#"><u>download strawberries rhythm here</u></a>
Watermelon:	<a href="#"><u>download watermelon rhythm here</u></a>
Rest:	<a href="#"><u>download rest rhythm here</u></a>
4 boxes:	<a href="#"><u>download worksheet 4 boxes here</u></a>
8 boxes:	<a href="#"><u>download worksheet 8 boxes here</u></a>
16 boxes:	<a href="#"><u>download worksheet 16 boxes here</u></a>
Interactive Orchestra:	<a href="#"><u>download worksheet interactive orchestra here</u></a>