

ABC CREATIVE MUSIC EARLY YEARS USER SURVEY 2017

32 responses in total from 7 Local Authorities

Aberdeenshire (4)

City of Edinburgh (7)

Clackmannanshire (2)

East Lothian (1)

Midlothian (2)

North Lanarkshire (15)

South Lanarkshire (1)

100% of users would recommend ABC Creative Music to a colleague!

How long have you been using ABC Creative Music resources?

Most respondents (34%) had been using ABC Creative Music for less than a year.

- 31% had been using ABC for between 1 and 3 years
- 19% for between 4 and 5 years
- 16% for more than 5 years.

How often do you use ABC Creative Music resources?

Almost 50% of respondents said they use ABC Creative Music once a week.

- 30% used ABC twice a week or more.
- 16% used ABC once a month
- Only 6% used ABC once every few months

How many children are usually in the group when you use ABC resources?

65% of respondents use ABC resources for a group of between 5 and 9 children.

- 13% had groups of between 10 and 15 children
- 10% had groups of less than 5
- 12% had groups of more than 15 children

Please describe the space that you use for running ABC sessions in your nursery.

Most users use a classroom or the nursery's main room. Only two respondents had access to a designated music area. Several users used a shared space or corridor. Depending on the activity being done a shared space would suffice but some activities are better done in an area with no other children present.

- Playroom – 5
- Classroom or main room – 13
- Various places including playroom, cloakroom area or gym hall -3
- Shared space or corridor 9
- Music area – 2

How many different staff members in your nursery use ABC Creative Music resources?

- 44% of respondents reported that between 2 and 3 staff members use ABC resources.
- 22% of respondents said ABC Creative Music resources were accessed by between 4 and 5 members.
- 19% of respondents were the only staff member in their nursery using ABC.
- 16% said more than 5 members of staff were using ABC.

Do you use ABC resources to run adult led or child led/free play sessions?

- The vast majority of users (63%) reported that they use ABC resources to run a mixture of adult and child led sessions.
- 31% of users said they used ABC to run adult led sessions
- Only 6% of respondents used ABC for child led sessions.

We asked respondents to rate the usefulness of various ABC resources between 1 and 5 stars.

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EY Resource Pack

- 56% of users rated the EY Resource Pack as 5 stars (the ring binder in the bag with the CDs, visual aids and puppets) OR 82% of respondents rated the EY Resource Pack as four or five stars
- 26% said it was a four-star resource
- 15% said it was a three-star resource

I've been using the pack for a few years and find it very useful and all activities are pitched a suitable level for the children we work with. I'm confident with adapting and extending where necessary. In fact we love the resource pack

Noted – Comments on how comprehensive and fully featured the pack is are balanced by a few comments saying it is a bit big and could be broken up to be more user friendly

Instrument Bags

- 79% of users rated the instrument bags as 5 stars
- 17% of users rated the instrument bags as 4 stars

The instrument bags are a popular resource with children and staff. We like that they're very child friendly and they have a bag to put everything in when it's time to listen or tidy up.

Fabulous resources - beautifully presented.

I use the bags with the resources and also in other musical activities and games. The children love the fact they have their own bags, or share with a friend. They can explore the number of instruments in the bag learning their names and sounds. These can be changed with others giving them more of a variety to choose from.

The children very much enjoy using the instrument bags and the types of instruments included are varied and effective in promoting their listening and creative skills.

Children love to have the chance to have their own special bag and they love to explore its contents.

ABC Website

- 61% of users rated the ABC website as 4 or 5 stars
- 36% - 5 stars
- 25% - 4 stars
- 36% - 3 stars

Quite a few say connectivity and technology at their school not great so this affects them using the website. The website has also just been upgraded - with more interactives added and a new CFE planning module upgrade completed.

iPad apps

- 75% of users rated the iPad apps as 4 or 5 stars
- 25% 5 stars
- 50% 4 stars

Should be noted that a lot of users reported they hadn't used the iPad apps yet – often as they did not have access to an iPad. And around the time of the survey a new, expanded and improved suite of iPad apps were launched.

CPD Sessions

- 89% of users rated the CPD sessions as 4 or 5 stars
- 57% 5 stars
- 32% 4 stars

We asked users to list the positive impacts that using ABC resources and training had on their nursery.

- 100% of users reported that ABC had improved children's engagement with music
- 84% said that children's listening skills had improved thanks to using ABC Creative music
- 72% said ABC had improved staff confidence and 62% that ABC had improved staff skills
- 56% reported that children's concentration levels had improved using ABC music resources
- 56% reported that children's numeracy had improved after using ABC Creative music
- 50% said that children's literacy had improved thanks to using ABC music resources

Some additional comments on the positive impacts of using ABC

Provides a calm time for some children to sit and listen and actively engage. It's good for new children to get to know other children working/playing alongside them. The children have experienced the enjoyment of performing for others in the school and also for parents, this has allowed some children to develop confidence in their abilities. Over the last few years we have included a short ABC performance in our end of year leavers show for parents/carers.

Children keeping the beat counting and when using the bells identifying which bell is which by its number symbol. Children readily engage with music and ask to use the I-pad, CD or have it on the smart board. Listening skills have improved as they have to listen and follow instructions.

The children respond well to activities on the smartboard and I have found the boing song and the count to 4 interactive screen very useful. They hold the children's interest and therefore concentrate on the task at hand for longer.

So fantastic to watch children take ownership of their learning and to lead the group with their choices. Most of the group developed heightened attention and turn taking skills.

It's great for their all round development.

I feel the ABC music programme is beneficial to the children across all areas of their development and learning. The children also very much enjoy the experiences.

Boosts children's confidence when they feel they are "in charge".

This resource is covering a big variety of the curriculum, through music. My pupils have developed literacy, numeracy, listening, and other skills through this resource.

Any Additional Comments?

WE love it and the children have reacted well to the repetitive nature of the songs and music. well done.

It has been a great way to shape our music learning in the nursery. On weeks when we are busy we can use a drum groove in the nursery to ensure they still get some music that week, or choose a song for movement in the gym hall. As someone with zero confidence teaching music I have found the resources really useful. Some lessons I need to teach a second time before everything goes perfectly but the majority of the time I can just pick up the resources and run with it - thank you!

It is a fun way to learn and it gives the added bonus of developing literacy and numeracy.

We love it and it is a resource that we are just scraping the surface of as it is so bountiful.

The ABC resources are fabulous and our children have benefitted not just in music but across the curriculum. I would highly recommend.

The ABC music programme has been a very positive addition to our nursery and to our children's creative learning and development.

This is a great resource that staff and children equally enjoy using.