

## RHYTHM ENSEMBLE WORK EXPRESSION

### RHYTHM

Rhythm is a combination of steady beat and the grouping and duration of the long and short, even and uneven sounds and silences (rests) that fill those beats. So far, the children have only worked with one sound filling a beat (*Taa*), two even sounds filling a beat (*TiTi*) and one silence filling a beat (*Saa*). These three rhythmic elements give enormous scope for variation.

Note that *Taa* and *TiTi* relate to even sounds, so when encouraging children to clap and say rhythms, choose simple words like pup-py or car-rot, which break into even syllables. Avoid some words, like Humpty Dumpty, which have an uneven pattern of syllables and do not fit *Taa* or *TiTi*.

### ENSEMBLE WORK & EXPRESSION

Being able to maintain a simple rhythmic pattern while other patterns are being played is a difficult task for young - and even not so young - children. It involves listening, concentration, teamwork and co-ordination. All the patterns must fit together to make a whole and the beat must remain steady.

The three ostinato patterns from the story, *The Three Wishes* can be fitted together to create a musical ensemble using three groups of children – one pattern for each group. Each four beat pattern represents one of the characters in the story. The woodcutter was sad, his wife was grumpy and the elf was happy. Adding sad, grumpy and happy expression to each rhythm creates another level of difficulty, but also adds interest to the music.

**Activity 4: Sad and Happy.** The activity sheet is an expression and rhythm matching activity from the story, *The Three Wishes*. Draw a line from each rhythm group to its matching happy or sad face. Colour the happy or sad faces. Play the rhythms - happily, sadly or grumpily!