



MRS. McDONOUGH'S MUSIC NOTES

Listening

March 2018

One skill that is hugely important to learning and success in school is listening. If you think about it, hearing and listening are not the same thing. Hearing is a *physical* process but listening is a *cognitive* process that assigns meaning to what you hear.

Listening consists of five steps: hearing, attending (paying attention to what you hear), discriminating or identifying the sound, understanding, and remembering. This is a process that young children practice naturally when they ask, "What's that sound?" when an airplane flies overhead or a dog barks down the street.

One way we practice this type of "active" listening in music class is when we identify instrument sounds. During the first part of March we're listening to instruments in traditional Irish music like the fiddle and the flute. When we return from Spring Break, we'll introduce instruments in the orchestra.