



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

When people listen to their favorite music, their brain releases chemicals that make them feel happier.



Try being a disc jockey

Share your favorite songs and artists with others through this fun hobby.

If you enjoy listening to or making music, you may want to try being a disc jockey (DJ). A DJ is someone who chooses what songs to play on the radio or at events, such as parties and dances. One classic way to DJ is with vinyl records and a record player, but you can also do it by creating playlists on a computer or a mobile device. Here's how you can get started.

Set the right mood

A DJ gets to decide what songs people listen to and in what order. The main goal of a DJ is to create a list of songs that go well together and match the mood of the people listening to them. A DJ at a birthday party may choose songs that have a celebratory feeling and play them loudly so people can dance. A DJ at a reception to honor a community member may choose more mellow music so attendees can chat over the music. DJs who work at parties may also ask the person who hired them to share the music they enjoy so the DJ can incorporate those tunes.

Create playlists

If you have music loaded onto a tablet, computer, or smartphone, you can DJ by creating a playlist. For instance, you could make a playlist to listen to while practicing soccer and another one for when you and your family are preparing a meal together. Notice what

types of songs you put on playlists for different purposes, and move songs on and off the playlist based on whether or not everyone enjoyed listening to them.

Listen for the beat

Once you've practiced choosing songs for different purposes, you could try a more advanced DJ technique, like beat matching. Beat matching is when professional DJs adjust the beat of the next song they're going to play to the one that's currently playing so the transition between songs is smooth. DJs use software for this so they can adjust the beat of a song. There are also apps, such as one called Djay, to help mix songs together. (Ask an adult for permission before downloading any apps.)

Consider vinyl records

Another way to practice being a DJ is by using vinyl records. If a parent or friend has a record player, ask if you can try using it. You can start with the records they already have and make a playlist using them. If you enjoy playing vinyl, you could ask to buy some of your own. (Many artists still release their songs on vinyl.) DJs typically use two record players at once so they can quickly switch between songs on different records. If you'd like to do this, you may be able to borrow another one or find one at a thrift store or garage sale. Enjoy experimenting with music!



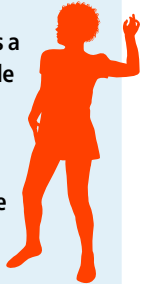
Choose music to match your mood.

4 tips for DJing a dance party

Demonstrate your new music skills by hosting a dance party for friends.

Clear a space

A dance party needs a dance floor so people have room to show off their moves. Ask a parent if it's OK to push furniture to the sides of a room to make more space.



Add decorations

Decorations can make your party more festive. For example, you can hang streamers or homemade paper chains over the dance floor. Or



blow up colorful balloons and scatter them around.

Set up speakers

Do a test run to make sure your speakers and your music are working. Ask an adult to help you figure out the highest volume at which you can play your music at the party without disturbing other people in your home or neighborhood.



Serve simple refreshments

All that dancing will probably make your friends hungry and thirsty. Set up a table with drinks, such as water and lemonade. You could also offer snacks, like popcorn or cookies.

