

Making Musical Instruments

Music is a good way of spending time with your child in a fun and enjoyable way; however, it also aids a child's development.

Music can promote:

- Communication: verbal and non-verbal through singing, making noises, pointing, looking, waving, clapping
- Language, Literacy and Numeracy: new words, counting, following patterns
- Thinking skills: attention to task, increasing attention span, problem solving, following instructions, understanding and practising new concepts for example go/stop, loud/soft, slow/fast and up/down
- Physical skills: gross and fine motor skills, body awareness, coordination
- Social skills: turn-taking, sitting and waiting

Musical instruments can be made from materials around the house and can be made with your child to help develop a sense of ownership and help promote a new way of experiencing making new sounds and exploring different instruments

Shakers

Materials needed:

- Containers of different shapes and sizes for example jars, empty milk containers, plastic bottles and containers, cardboard tubes, paper/plastic cups, metal tube containers
- Various fillings: rice, beans, pebbles, lentils, pasta, buttons

How to make:

- Put filling into container and glue/tape container to ensure the contents don't get out or your child can open it
- Decorate the outside, for example paint, tissue paper, ribbon, feathers, stickers etc.

Have lots of fun shaking them together



Rhythm Sticks

Materials needed:

- Two 20cm length dowel, sticks, small pieces of wood, wooden ruler or chopsticks

How to make:

- Smooth the ends and decorate the sticks

Tap together to a beat



Bells

Materials needed:

- Thick hairbands, elastic bands, pipe cleaners, ribbon or pieces of elastic
- Lolly sticks, cardboard tubes
- Small bells (these can be bought or from old Christmas decorations)

How to make:

- Thread the bells onto the band and tie the ends together as appropriate
- Thread bells onto pipe cleaner and wrap around lolly stick, fix ends with tape/glue
- Attach bells to cardboard tube
- You could use a hair scrunchie make a small opening put bells in and sew up the hole to make bells your child can hold

Wear the bell bracelet on the wrist or ankles and dance away or shake, shake, shake



Rainstick

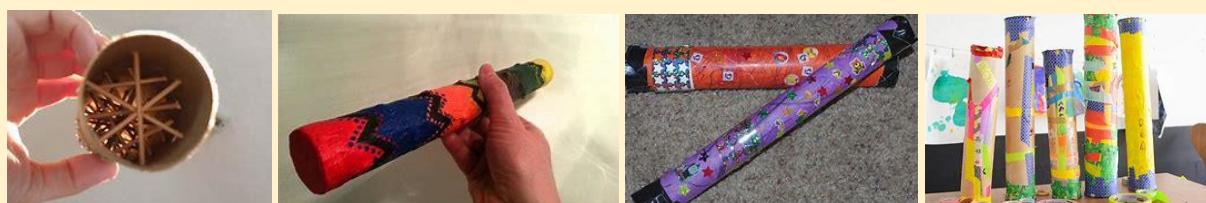
Materials needed:

- A long tube for example, kitchen roll, wrapping paper tube, cling film/foil tube, postal tube
- Various fillings: Buttons, pasta, lentils, small pebbles, marbles, rice
- Toothpicks

How to make:

- Seal one end of the tube with some fabric and strong tape
- Push the toothpicks through the sides of the tube to make the raining effect, remove any ends that stick through tube
- Place a filling in tube
- Seal the other end well
- Decorate the rainstick

Listen to the sound of the rain and relax



Drums

Materials needed:

- Pots, pans, metal or plastic containers for example formula, coffee tins

How to make:

- Paint the outside of the tin and let it dry
- Cover one end with a stretched balloon or grease proof paper and secure with string/ribbon/elastic band, pulling the paper as tight as possible

Use a wooden spoon or beater to bang the drums and make as much noise as possible



Tambourine

Materials needed:

- Paper plates
- Various fillings: Pasta, rice, lentils, beans

How to make:

- Get two paper plate on one plate put a handful of a filling
- Put the other plate on top and staple around the edge, making sure that none of the filling comes out
- Decorate the tambourine

Shake along to some music

