



HELLO PARENTS,

From early on, children love listening to music. Singing lullaby's, nursery rhymes and even funny songs are a big part of their lives. Introducing musical instruments for children into their play is a natural progression. Being able to play, touch and make noises with a variety of musical instruments helps children learn patience, as it takes practice to learn how to play an instrument. Learning an instrument provides children with an outlet to practice, listen to feedback, make adjustments and see positive changes. As they improve, they will build confidence and boost self-esteem. It also enhances children's cognitive skills while fostering creative thinking and their ability to focus. In this newsletter, we provide you with different ideas to make musical instruments.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

RAINBOW SOUND BOTTLES

MATERIALS:

- Empty plastic bottles with lids
- Different objects to fill the bottles. For example: buttons, beads, etc.

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the bottles with different objects.
- Secure the lids tightly.
- Let your child shake the bottles and listen to the different sounds.
- Talk to your child about the different sounds that the bottles make. For example: soft, loud, etc.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

LET'S MAKE DRUMS

MATERIALS:

- Different sizes of containers. For example: empty plastic jug, a bowl turned upside down, metal pot, tin can, etc.
- Wooden spoon
- Music. For example: YouTube, radio, or CD

DIRECTIONS:

- Provide your child with different containers.
- Let your child use the wooden spoon to bang on the drum.
- Play the drums while singing with the music.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

PAPER PLATE MARACAS

MATERIALS:

- Paper plates
- Paint
- Glue
- Tape
- Different objects to fill paper plates. For example: buttons, small rocks, etc.

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child paint and design their paper plates.
- Once the paint is dry, ask your child to fill one paper plate with small rocks, buttons, or any objects that will make noise.
- Glue the paper plates together, and tape around the edges.
- Let it dry.
- Shake the maracas and dance to their sound.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

WATER XYLOPHONE

MATERIALS:

- Water
- 5 glass jars
- Spoon
- Food colouring (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill each jar with different amounts of water.
- Arrange the jars in a line from emptiest to fullest.
- Test the sound of each jar, by tapping the top of the jar with a spoon.
- Continue to tap the jars with the spoon. Listen to the different sounds that each jar makes.
- Have a conversation with your child comparing the sounds of each jar. For example: high pitch, low pitch, soft sounds, loud sounds etc. Ask your child: What sounds does an empty jar make, when you tap on it? How about the jar that is full of water?

[Click here](#) to see how a water xylophone works.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

GUESS THE SOUND

- [Click here](#) to watch Guess The Sound video.

DIRECTIONS:

- Open Guess The Sound Video, and play this fun musical game!
- Begin to listen to the first musical instrument. After you listen to the musical instrument sound, pause the video.
- Guess the musical instrument that has made the sound. Write down your guess on a piece of paper.
- Continue to play the video, and see if you guessed correctly.
- Watch the remainder of the video, and continue to listen to the sounds and write down your guesses.
- How many musical instruments were you able to identify? Play this game with a family member or friend, and see how many instruments they can correctly identify!
- Choose one instrument, which you learned about in the video.
- Gather items from your home, and use them to try to make the instrument of your choice. Try to make your instrument sound realistic, and similar to the instrument from the video.
- Play your instrument for your friends and family.

[Click here](#) to learn how to Beatbox.



A TIP FOR TODAY

- Collect bottles, coffee tins, recyclable materials, etc.
- Encourage your child to listen to different music throughout the day.
- Let your child play musical instruments that you have at home.