

Making Instruments at Home

Instrument making is an affordable, enjoyable and creative way for you and your child to engage in craft and play together. Constructing and decorating the instruments provides a sense of ownership and helps to develop a child's confidence to use the instruments and explore new ways of making sounds. Materials can be found around the home or sourced from reverse garbage outlets and independent suppliers.



Shakers

- Find containers of different shapes and sizes e.g. jars, empty milk or juice containers, film canisters, empty toilet rolls
- Fill with rice, beans, pebbles, lentils or macaroni. 100s and 1000s work well too!
- Glue the lid on and tape ends to ensure contents can't escape and little fingers can't open it
- Decorate the outside with paint, paper mache or try making them into different animals by painting the container as the body and attaching googly eyes

Rhythm Sticks

- You will need - two 20cm lengths of dowel or chopsticks (economical way to create multiple pairs!)
- Smooth the ends
- Decorate pairs of sticks and tap them together to the beat!
- You can even use these as a beater for the drums by placing rubber chair leg stops that match the size of the dowel over the ends to make a softer sound

Bells

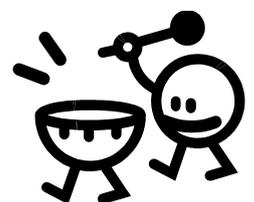
- You will need - thick hair bands or pieces of elastic and some small bells which can be bought from craft shops
- Thread the bells through the band or elastic and secure by tying ends together
- The bells can then be worn as a bell bracelet around the wrist or ankles for dancing
- You can also make a small opening in a colourful hair scrunchie, pop in some small bells and sew up the hole to make bells children can hold

Rainstick

- You will need - A long tube like a post office tube, buttons, dry pasta, lentils, or small pebbles, and toothpicks
- Seal one of the ends of the tube with some fabric and strong tape
- Push the toothpicks through the sides of the mailing tube to make the raining effect
- Place the pasta, buttons, lentils or pebbles in the tube and seal the other end well
- Decorate your rainstick

Drums

- You can use - pots, pans and metal or plastic containers e.g. formula or milo tins
- Paint the outside of the tin and let the paint dry completely
- Cover one end with a stretched balloon or grease proof paper and secure with string, pulling the paper as tight as possible
- Use a wooden spoon from the kitchen to hit the drums



IMPORTANT NOTES & TIPS

- Safety. Ensure the contents inside instruments are securely contained and no small items can break away from the instrument
- Experiment with different sizes, shapes and surfaces of materials
- Stickers, scrap material (glued on), contact and paint are all great for decorating
- Always supervise when children are using instruments