

Making instruments at home

Shakers:

Use small containers with tightly fixed lids. Remember your child's hand is smaller than yours!

- Mini food/snack plastic containers with screw top lids
- Small plastic juice/water bottles
- Small plastic jars

Use a filler made of very small material.

- Rice, pasta, popping corn
- Small fish tank pebble
- Dried beans or lentils

Have fun with the children making and decorating the shakers.

Tip: a small funnel or piping bag could be helpful to fill the containers.

Drums:

Drums can be made a range of sizes from many home items. Different sizes and materials will make for a fun exploration of sounds and a lesson in themselves.

- Kitchen ideas – pots, pans, plastic containers with lids or unlidded upside down.
- Laundry ideas – small and large buckets turned upside down, laundry baskets
- Gardening ideas – plastic planters turned upside down

To make a mallet: take a chop stick and wrap one end (around and around) with a long strip of cotton or satin ribbon until a fabric ball is created.

Triangles/ metal sounds:

Making instruments from the metals families requires extra care. Always supervise children.

The objective is to create an object that makes a metal sound. It can be struck to make a beat or ringing sound.

- Metal coat hangers, scrap wire of sufficient thickness that can be bent into the triangle shape, twisted to hold its shape and a piece of string attached as a finger holder. Use a plastic or metal pen as a striker.
- Kitchen metal utensils such as whisks, spatulas and metal spoons make great alternatives.

Rhythm sticks/wood sounds:

These instruments are mainly used for steady beat so simply find two same size pieces of appropriate material:

- Wooden dowel cut to size (2cm diameter ideal for small hands).
- From the kitchen: wooden spoons turned upside down so the child holds the spoon 'head'.
- Other alternate kitchen wooden utensils
- Some wooden toys have pieces appropriate to use as wood sounds.