

# Learning with music and song

## Rationale:

Making music and singing songs help your child practise words and language in an enjoyable way. Making instruments is a fun shared activity to encourage your child to sing and make music while having fun together.

## Age range information

1-3 years

## What you need

This activity just requires everyday objects around the house that your child can use to make music.

## How to do it

1. Ask your child what things in your house can make noise.
2. Gather a collection of things for a 'music band' – for example, a plastic bowl that you can hit with a wooden spoon as a drum. A cardboard cylinder from a plastic wrap roll is fun to sing through like a trumpet. Two saucepan lids make a great pair of cymbals. A sealed container filled with dried beans, pasta or rice will make a maraca to shake.
3. Experiment with the instruments and talk about what you are doing. Use words like 'loud', 'quiet', 'noisy' and 'soft' to describe the sounds he is making.
4. Show your child how to use the instruments to express things – for example, 'Does this drum sound like thunder?' or 'I think this is a happy, excited sound. What sound are you making?'
5. Play your instruments and sing along. Sing a song you both know or make one up as you play. You could use the noises of your instruments to guide you – for example, 'Bang, bang goes the drum! Toot, toot goes the horn!'
6. Your child could have a 'concert' for your family with his musical instruments.

## Adapting for children of different ages

Your younger child might be happy exploring the sounds his instruments make without realising that he is making 'music'. That doesn't matter – you can still sing along to the noises he is making.

Your older child might get a bit more creative making his 'band'. He might like to colour his instrument made from a cardboard box or cylinder with markers, for example. He might set some of his toys up with instruments to join in.



## Recommended Reads by the National Library Board

For some suggestions on rhymes, click [here](#) to download a booklet on rhymes!

### Recommended Reads

- [Mabela the clever](#)
- [Chicka chicka boom boom](#)
- [Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons](#)

Engage your child with simple activities at home! Check out some of these things you can do together:

- [Head, shoulders, knees and toes](#)