

making instruments

at home - resource one

If it's raining outside and you're looking for something special to undertake with your young child, then making some instruments to use at home is a worthwhile project - and most of the materials will probably be around your home



making a drum

Drums can be made from all sorts of containers. A ice cream container with a lid makes a fantastic drum - two holes either side and a piece of string, and the drum hangs around your neck. Use a wooden spoon as the drum stick

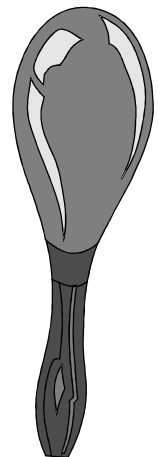
maraca or shaker

Children love the sound of a shaker. These can be made from any containers that can be securely closed to ensure the contents aren't released. And a shaker can be filled with all manner of items - sand, buttons, small pebbles, paper clips. There is a move away from using food in early childhood centres - at home, it's your choice - dried foods can provide all sorts of interesting sounds

Attempt to make a number of shakers with differing contents to help your child understand sounds

If you have access to film cannisters [your local pharmacy or photographic outlet will excess supplies], try filling two cannisters with the same contents and encourage your young child to match the sounds

For extra safety, use craft glue under the lids of containers



what to do with your instruments

Play some classical music and encourage your child to 'find the beat' as they either march or sit and play

Tell a story or read a book where there are sounds that will add to the excitement of the story

Add to your instrument collection with a piece of cellophane that can be scrunched to the beat, paper that can be ripped, an old pot lid that can be clanged [either against another pot lid or with a wooden spoon]

Best of all, make enough instruments so you can play in the band as well. Have a GREAT time!