



Creative Families: DIY Music-making Handbook

Find your sounds at home!

Explore your home to find all the different ways you could make sounds and instruments. Here are some ideas:



DIY Drums

There are all sorts of things that can be turned into brilliant drums. Beyond the obvious pots and pans, try buckets and plastic pots, dustbins and boxes. Water bottles make great drumsticks on a table, as do flip flops on buckets.



Playing tunes

Blow across the tops of bottles of different shapes and sizes. Try filling them with water to change the notes. If you're feeling brave, fill glass bottles with different amounts of water and tap them with cutlery to play tunes. Make a tissue box into a guitar by putting elastic bands round it, and plucking the strings over the hole.

The computer

If you use a PC there are some simple pieces of free software you can download so that you can use the keyboard to play tunes. Try Electronic Piano 2.6 or Click MusicalKEYS.

Apps

If you use a smart phone or tablet, here are some good music apps. Some are free and some cost a small amount:

Echo String, Sound Prism, Bloom Tunes, Garage Band

Thumb Jam (£8)



Activities

Musical Animals



1. Choose an animal (or something else if you like)
2. Choose some instruments or other ways to make sound in your house.
3. Make your own sounds and music together that go with your animal. Think about whether your animal moves fast or slowly. Would it make loud or quiet sounds? Should the music sound happy or scary?

Sound leaders

1. One person is the leader. The leader makes whatever kind of sound or music they would like to make, using their voice, instruments or objects.
2. The other person joins in, copying their sound as closely as possible.
3. Take it in turns to be the leader!
4. You can also try this game using movement.

What kind of sounds are you making? Are they loud, quiet, fast, slow, bouncy, smooth. . . ?

Write a song!

Choose one of our themes for inspiration:

1. Saying hello/goodbye
2. Your favourite things

Make up some words, pictures, signs or actions. It could be very simple, one or two sentences or actions.

Add music, using instruments, your voice, or anything that makes sound in your home! You could record it on your phone or computer so that you can listen to your ideas, perfect them and repeat your song again and again. . .



Top tips for music-making at home!

1. Anything can make a sound

Remember that your house is full of potential instruments and things that make interesting sounds, just use your imagination! You can also use your bodies as percussion, and your voices in whatever way you feel like.



2. Anything can have a song

You can add singing and actions or signs to anything that is happening in your day. How about a song about eating breakfast, having a bath or going to the park? You don't need to think too hard about a tune, just see what comes out!



3. Explore together

You and your child/children can explore and learn together. Try and find new sounds, listen to new things and make up new music as a team, where you are both beginners and experts in the music that has yet to be made!



4. Copy, mirror, echo

The simplest way to turn anything into a game. Take it in turns to be leaders, one person can choose and make a sound/movement/rhythm/tune and the other person can join in, watching them closely to make sure they are ready to change if the leader changes. 

Most importantly, enjoy and have fun!

