

Musical Instruments You Can Make at Home

Please note:

Young children put things in their mouths. Make sure your homemade toys or musical instruments are safe and that your children are supervised when using them.



Drums

To make drums, decorate empty big ice cream containers from an ice cream store. Use dowels for the drum sticks.

Finger Bells

Take a glove and some jingle bells from the crafts section. Sew a bell on each finger and the thumb of the glove. Now wiggle your fingers.

Shakers

Make great shakers with washed out half pint milk cartons. The children can put sand, pebbles, popcorn, or beans in them. Fold the top down, tape securely and cover with brightly covered contact paper.



Cardboard Tube Kazoos

Wrap wax paper over one end of the cardboard tube and secure with rubber band. The children hum into the open end of the tube.



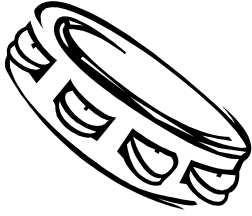
Rubber Band Guitars

Stretch across a Styrofoam tray or shoebox. This works great, you can even tune them!

Paper Cup Maracas

Put a few beans inside the paper cup, cover the top and secure with paper and tape.





Tambourine

Fill tin-foil pie pans with seeds or beans and staple or glue gun the pans together. Shake, use heavy duty paper plates instead of pie pans for a softer sound.

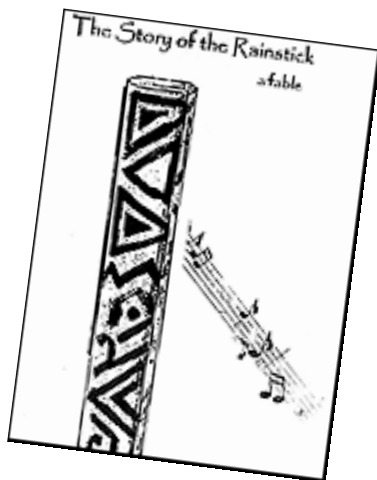
Rhythm Sticks

Tap wooden dowels or hollow bamboo sticks together to make a rhythm sound.



Rhythm Blocks

Staple sandpaper to two small wooden blocks and rub them together to make a swishy sound.



Simple Rain Stick

Supplies needed: empty potato chip cans with lids; several plastic 6 pack can holders; contact paper/construction paper; popcorn or dried beans; masking tape or colored tape; decorative materials; boot laces, raffia, commercially purchased feather, beads, etc

Instructions: Fold plastic 6 pack holders lengthwise and insert several into each can. Pour in a handful of popcorn or dried beans, adjust amounts till you find the sounds you like. Seal lid to can. Decorate with wood grain or jungle printed contact paper or with decorated construction paper. Attach purchased feather and/or beads.

The Story of the Rainstick can be found at:
www.make-stuff.com/kids/rainstick.html