

Make a Musical Instrument

If you don't have an instrument to play at home, here are some ideas of some that you can make with things you might have in the house. Remember to ask an adult before using anything!



Water Xylophone

Pour some water into a glass and give it a gentle tap (chopsticks or pencils work well). Now take another glass and fill it with a different amount of water. The sound should be a different pitch when you tap it.

Fill a few glasses with different amounts of water and you have a water glockenspiel! You could add food dye to show the different notes.

Can Drums

You can make your own drums at home with loads of things. Different sized pots and pans will have different *tones* and *itches*.



To make your own mini drums, stretch a balloon over an empty food can and secure it with an elastic band. You could use chopsticks or pencils as drum sticks or flick or pinch the balloons to play them. Try to tap out different rhythms or play along to some songs.



Elastic Band Ukuleles

Elastic bands give a lovely twanging sound. The more you stretch them, the higher pitch sound they make (be careful not to snap them though!)

You can make a ukulele or guitar at home using a box and some elastic bands. Ask an adult to cut a hole in the box then stretch the elastic bands around it. You can add a kitchen roll tube or Pringles can as a neck and paint it however you like.

Rain sticks and Shakers

You can use lots of objects to make shakers. All you need to do is add rice to a pot and make sure the lid is secure before shaking it (otherwise you'll be picking up rice for a long time!). You can experiment with getting different sounds by using different sized pots or pots made from different materials. You could also use something other than rice (corn, pasta, sand etc)

A rain shaker uses the same idea but you need a longer tube. Adding pipe cleaners to the tube makes the rice fall slower and sound like rain! (Remember to close both ends of the tube).



Here are some pictures of other home made instrument to give you some inspiration.

