



HOME-MADE MUSIC

Developing rhythm and listening skills

A musical instrument doesn't have to be sophisticated to be fun and educational. Here are some classic ideas for children ages 3-12 for constructing home-made instruments. The youngest children will need to be supervised by adults for these projects.

LIQUID XYLOPHONE: Fill some clear bottles or glasses with water at increasing levels. You can colour the water too! Play this liquid xylophone by clinking the bottles or glasses gently with a spoon and listening for different notes.



SHOE BOX GUITAR: Cut a round hole in a shoe box. Strap different size elastics around the box and gently strum.

HANDCLAPPERS: Have the child trace his hands (left and right) on a piece of cardboard. Cut them out and decorate. Then glue the round end of frozen-juice cans, one to each hand. Tape a popsicle stick securely to the bottom of each hand.



FINGER-BELLS: Sew different size bells (from a craft shop/dollar store) onto the ends of children's size gloves, each size corresponding to a finger or thumb.

MARACAS: Fill small potato chip canisters with rice, beans, or smooth stones. Secure the end tightly with tape. Draw an animal face on flat ends and decorate with feathers, etc. Notice how different size materials make different sounding maracas.



ICE CREAM DRUM: Clean out small cardboard ice cream containers, cover with craft paper and decorate. Then bang away!

WARNING: Small pieces like bells can be a choking hazard for children under 3 years.