

MAKING MUSIC

Sound Matching Tubes

The sound tubes are a version of Dr. Montessori's "Sound Boxes"

Matching - The child gently shakes a white sound tube near their ear. Then they shake the black tubes one at a time to find the matching sound. When they find a match, they set the tubes aside in pairs.

Grading - The child compares a set of tubes and sets them down in order, loudest to softest. Then they compare the second set and order them softest to loudest.

Memory - Put each set of tubes on different sides of the room or in different rooms. The child shakes one tube and then goes to the other set and tries to match the sound from memory. This is more difficult and keeps active children engaged, because they keep moving!

Instrument Models

A fun introduction to classical music instruments

Sound Identification - Play a few instrument sounds and show your child the matching instruments. Then play a sound and ask the child to match the correct instrument model. (Sounds are found on our website under the "My Resources" page for this Toolbox.)

Modified 3 Part Cards - Younger children can match the instrument model to the image card.

Then they match the label card (instrument name) to the image card.

Once they learn the instrument name, they can match the label card to the instrument model.

Variation: match the black and white image to the label and instrument model. [See videos for 3 part cards]

Rhythm Pattern Cards

An introduction to rhythm and versatile tool to develop critical thinking

Grouping - Younger children group the small cards in rows.

Simple Matching - The child matches small cards to a large pattern card.

Musical Notation - Explain notes and rests. [See Videos]

Rhythm Practice - Use drum, bells, or rhythm sticks to practice notes and rests. [See Videos]

Note Patterns - Use the small cards to repeat the pattern from the larger cards. Then they can create their own pattern and play it.

Jingle Bells

Fun activities that teach basic experimentation

Bell Experiments - The child guesses (forms a hypothesis) what will happen if the bells ring in different containers. Will it be louder or softer? Then test (experiment) and see if they were correct (conclusion). Use a sock, drum, can, etc.

Bell Bracelet - To develop their motor skills, the child strings bells on the leather cord. They can also practice knot tying.

Bells on Ankles - The child can make the bells sound differently by how they move. Attach the bells to the child's ankle and have them: stomp, hop, dance, tap their feet, wiggle, run in place, and tip toe.

Irish Penny Whistle

For the young, budding musician

Basic Notes & Scale - The Penny Whistle is in the Key of D Major. Any song in this key can be played. [See Videos]

Rhythm Sticks

Sensory development, coordination, and critical thinking

Tapping or Scraping - The child closes their eyes and listens as the parent taps or scrapes the sticks. They must listen carefully to hear if the sticks were tapped or scraped.

Tapping Experiments - Explore sounds when tapping with the rhythm sticks. Start with newspaper and have the child tap it. Then ask, "what will happen when it is crumpled up?" Try tapping on flat aluminum foil, crumpled foil, flat cardboard, a cardboard box, wax paper, towels, pot lids.

Drum

Develop coordination and motor control

Different Beats - The child can learn motor control by exploring various ways to make noise with a drum: light taps, big booms, slow or fast beats, hand, fingers, fist, etc.

Decorate The Drum - Use items at home or our Art Appreciation Toolbox to paint or decorate the drum.

The Drum Game - The child takes steps each time you beat the drum. They walk slowly when you tap slowly, and run when you tap quickly. As the drum stops they freeze.

Copy My Rhythm - This activity is difficult because it requires careful listening. The parent taps out a rhythm and the child tries to copy it.

The sound tubes should stay closed, but CAN be opened. Parents should be cautious, since any small pieces can present a choking hazard.