

Baby Beats

Big music for little people

5 GREAT SONGS TO ENCOURAGE MUSIC MAKING

BRING THOSE
INSTRUMENTS
TO LIFE!





How many new toys are a favourite for the first 10 minutes then never get played with again? And if they're noisy we often discourage our children from playing with them too. But instruments can be so much more than toys!

Here are 5 great songs to make musical instruments a hit, provide educational stimulation and great bonding time too.

Incy Wincy Spider

This is probably a favourite anyway. Bring it to life with instruments to make contrasting sounds for the rain and the sunshine. Use a shaker or Maracas when the rain falls down and a bell for the sparkly sunshine. Take turns with your child to be the rain and the sunshine so they can hear the two sounds. Make the rain light, medium and heavy by shaking more vigorously and use it to talk about what the weather is like today.

The Grand Old Duke of York

Parents can dread giving a child a drum but it doesn't have to give you a headache! Feel the beat of this song by clapping or tapping the drum on "grand", "duke" and "york" and continue a steady beat through the song. Help young babies to feel this rhythm by putting their hand on the drum as you tap, tap on their arms or legs (rather than making them clap) or bounce them on the beat. As they get older encourage them to tap the drum themselves and it is amazing how quickly they work it out. You can always use a hand drum with no beater to make a softer sound.

The Wheels on the Bus

What better prop for a driving song than a tambourine! A perfect wheel shape you can

do lots of the actions to this song with just one instrument. Turn it around for the wheels, use it as a steering wheel, tap for the horn, shake for a bell, swish in the air for wipers, jingle for money going "clink, clink, clink" and make up lots more!

Twinkle Twinkle

Use jingly bells to capture the sparkly magic of this classic rhyme. Let babies lie on their back and watch you jingling a bell above them as you sing. As soon as they are able to hold a bell (our Baby Bell's are suitable from 3 months) let them explore the sound. Encourage older ones to make a more controlled sound and jingle on the beat by tapping the bell with their other hand rather than just shaking it at random.

The Little Green Frog

As children start to recognise animal noises see if they can recreate any with their musical instruments. Our favourite is a frog's ribbit using a Guiro. If you don't know The Little Green Frog watch our video [here](#). Encourage your child to scrape the Guiro in different ways for the different sound the frog makes. Or try 5 Green Speckled Frogs and make different sounds for "Yum Yum" and "Glug Glug".

We hope you enjoy these ideas, for more instrument inspiration visit our [shop](#).