

Preschool Phonics Phase 1.2 Instrumental Sounds

A Guide for Parents

Preschool and nursery phonics focuses on pre-reading skills. These are speaking and listening skills, being able to distinguish the sounds they hear, patterns of speech, and sounds of speech. Phase 1 of the phonics programme is split into seven aspects; each builds on the previous aspect.

This guide introduces the second aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Instrumental Sounds.

Children learn to tune their listening into musical sounds, through listening to music and playing with musical instruments. This aspect focuses on recognised musical instruments, rather than home-made instruments.

Have musical instruments at home for your children to play with, such as: drums, tambourines, maracas or recorders. Spend time playing music with them. Play inside/outside, play loudly/quietly and sing along to the music at the same time. Have fun exploring all the possibilities of playing music together.

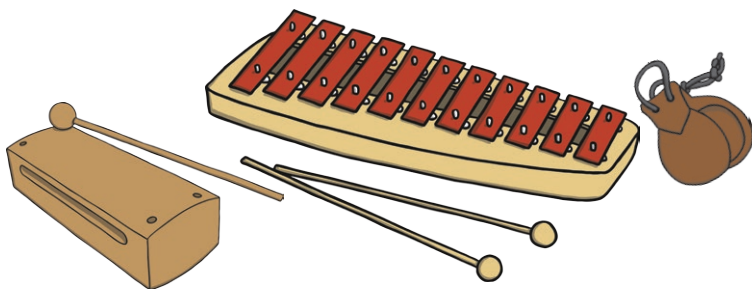
When you are out and about, listen to the different music played in shops, watch buskers play and visit music shops to show your child the instruments. You could even attend concerts and shows at your local theatre; there are often performances - especially for preschool children.

Sound bingo games are available to buy or download, where children listen to instrumental sounds and match them to images on their game board.

You can start this part of phonics as soon as your baby is born. Play music of different styles and genres at home or during car journeys, music that reflects moods, classical music, world music, modern music - make music a part of your life.

Nurseries, preschools and childminders will have musical instruments available for the children to play with and explore. Children usually take part in group sessions led by adults where the children are encouraged to play an instrument to a regular beat. They will play games where they match the sound to instruments.

This aspect of phonics is brilliant for growing an appreciation for music of all kinds - a skill for life.



The most important thing you can do is make time to listen to your child. Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones and really listen to them!