



Music

(Target Audience – Preschool)

Music has always been a part of life. In ancient times, materials that were used to make musical instruments included gourds, clay, skins, wood, reeds and bones. Have the children make musical instruments with easily found materials.

Musical Instruments

1. Shakers: Use empty water bottles, filled with some dry rice or beans. Screw the lid on tightly and have the children decorate with coloured yarns, beads, paper, feathers, and stickers.
2. Drums: Use large yogurt tubs and coffee tins with lids. Decorate as above.
3. Trumpets or flutes: Use empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls. Children can decorate them, then ‘toot’ into them.
4. Rhythm sticks: Use wooden spoons, sticks or even pencils.
5. Harp: Put some elastic bands around an empty, lid-less shoe box and strum the bands.
6. Your body: This must have been the earliest instrument! Clap hands, stamp feet, slap thighs, tap feet, whistle and sing.

Call and Response Game

You play a rhythm, e.g. “Clap, clap, slap, slap, stomp.” The children repeat it back to you. Change the rhythms; make them more complex, slower, faster, louder, and quieter. Then have the children take turns playing a rhythm that everyone else repeats.

Dance and Play to Music

Use CDs with traditional music from Africa or South America, to give a feeling for the kind of music that would have been played in ancient times. The children can use their newly made instruments to play along and dance with the music.

Books and Fingerplays

There are many stories, legends and myths of other cultures in the library. Read one or two that are not too difficult for preschoolers. Find some rhymes or fingerplays from other countries in books at your library or on the internet