

# Phonics at Home Phase 1

Aspect Two  
Instrumental Sounds



# Main Purpose



To experience and develop awareness of sounds made with instruments and noise makers

# Which Instrument?

This activity involves using instruments or things that can make sounds. If you do not have any instruments at home then you could improvise by using pans, boxes or other things that could make a noise. Four instruments should be enough to start with; you can always increase the number later.

Place the instruments in the middle between you and your child. Play each one once. Your child will then close their eyes or look away. Play the instrument and then your child should guess which one you played.

You can extend this by playing two or more instruments; creating a sequence or pattern for your child to copy.



# Short Sound Games

## Adjust the Volume

Find an instrument or something that can make a noise. Play the instrument with you child. Ask them to see if they can make it louder or quieter. Experiment with different volume levels, for example 1 is very quiet and 5 is very loud.

## Story Sounds

Choose your child's or your favourite picture books to read. As you read or tell stories, encourage your child to play their instruments or make sounds in different ways (e.g. Make this instrument sound like giant's footsteps, ... a fairy fluttering, ... a cat pouncing, ... an elephant stamping). Invite them to make their own suggestions for different characters (e.g. How might Jack's feet sound as he tiptoes by the sleeping giant? And what about when he runs fast to escape down the beanstalk?).

## New Words to Old Songs

Take a song or rhyme that your child knows well and invent new words to suit the purpose and your child's interests. You could also add in some sounds from instruments or other things around the house that make noises.



# Old Macdonald

Sing the song 'Old Macdonald had a farm'. If you have farm animal toys, ask your child to pick up each one as you sing and make the sound of the animal. Visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-old-macdonald-had-a-farm/zh4yt39> for a video of the song with the song words. Use the pictures of the animals on the next page to help. You could also use the pictures of the animals to point to and ask your child to make the noises or vice versa; make the noises and your child points to the correct one.

