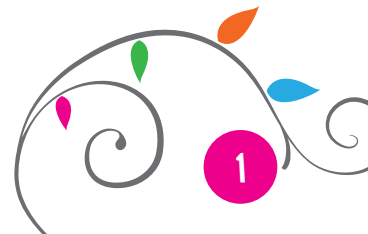


PLAYING WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



WHY?

- ✓ **Brain body connections:** Music helps to create connections between the brain and the body which will help your child with maths and reading when they are older.
- ✓ **Social and emotional development:** When you spend time enjoying music together it creates a strong bond and builds trust between you and your child.
- ✓ **Big and small Muscles:** Small muscles in the hands get nice and strong holding the instruments. Different instruments encourage different grips and grasps. Big muscles get nice and strong when they dance to music.
- ✓ **Language development:** Singing songs helps your child to learn new words.
- ✓ **Thinking development:** Singing and music helps to improve memory skills and can help children to learn to count and learn body parts.
- ✓ **Active learning:** Children learn best when they are active. Listening to music is great, but they can learn the **most** by dancing, clapping, rocking and playing instruments to music.

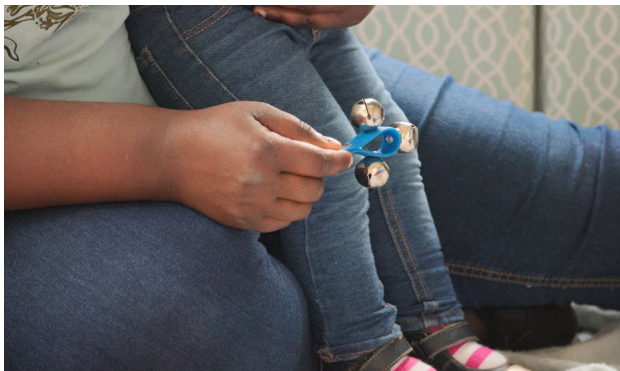
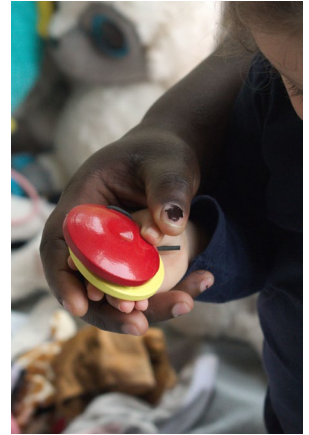


BLOCK 5 TOYS

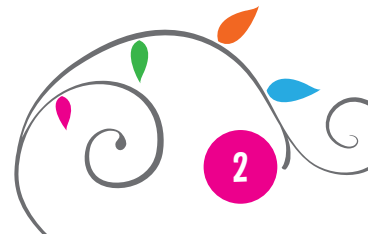
PLAYING WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

HOW?

- ✓ Choose one instrument to play. Put the instrument in your hand and show your child how it works. Put the instrument in your child's hand and show them how to play it.
- ✓ Sing a song or play some music and show your child how to play the instrument to the beat of the song.
- ✓ **Copy cat game:** Give your child an instrument and take one for yourself.
 - a. Listen to the rhythm/sound that your child makes with their instrument and copy the same rhythm/sound with your instrument.
 - b. Use your instrument to make a rhythm/sound and see if your child repeat the same rhythm/sound. Try different types of sounds – loud, soft, fast and slow.
- ✓ **Body game:** Use a shaker to teach your child about his/her body. You can do this by shaking the shaker on their foot and say "feet!". Repeat for other body parts e.g. knees, tummy, shoulders, head, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, etc.



- ✓ **Hide and seek for baby:** When your baby is focussed on an instrument, try hiding it under a scarf or blanket and encourage them to find it.



BLOCK 5 TOYS

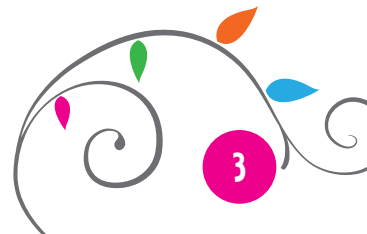
PLAYING WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



- ✓ **Hide and seek for toddler:** Take a musical instrument and go and hide. Use the instrument to make sounds until your child can find you.



- ✓ **Reach up high:** Hold the instrument up above your child's head, just out of his/her reach. Encourage him/her to stretch up to reach it.
- ✓ **Make up songs:** Make up your own songs! You can sing about anything and everything to your child.



BLOCK 5 TOYS

PLAYING WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



TIPS

- ✓ Make sure that your child can see your face when you are singing together. Use lots of facial expressions and smile!
- ✓ Use a variety of instruments with different sounds. Use silence as well for your child to learn what silence sounds like.
- ✓ Make music a part of your child's daily routine.
- ✓ Use household items to add to your musical instruments and make different sounds (for example pots, pans, wooden spoons or bottles).

