

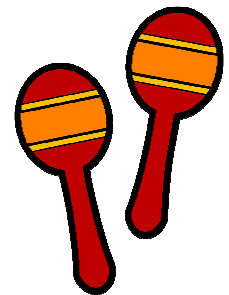


# Purposeful Ongoing Play

## Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

### Parent Tip Sheet (P.O.P. Sheet) on... Musical Instruments

- \* Find instruments that match your child's interests.
- \* Below are some ideas that may be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you pick up an instrument. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and can easily do.
- \* Suggested instruments: keyboard/piano, guitar, ukulele, harmonica, triangle, drums, maracas, tambourine, xylophone, shakers, cymbals, chimes, jingle bells, flute/recorder.
- \* Play around verbally imitating the sounds instruments make. For example, "Plink-plink" for pianos, "Boom-boom," "Rat-a-tat," or "Pu-rum-pum" for drums, "Ding-a-ling" for jingle bells, "Toot-toot" for flutes.
- \* Reinforce the concepts of loud versus soft, fast versus slow, and long versus short by varying the loudness, speed, and duration of the instruments (notes) being played.
- \* Play a guessing game where you describe an instrument in detail (size, shape, color, special features) and your child guesses what it is. For example, "Which instrument is big, rectangular, and has black and white keys?"
- \* Many craft books and websites teach simple ways to make various instruments for children (e.g. drum out of an oatmeal box and lid or tambourine out of paper plates, string and jingle bells). As you make the instrument with your child, be very specific as you talk about the materials you're using and the process you're going through (cutting, pasting, sewing, fastening, and so on).
- \* Sing simple songs or make up silly songs as you play the instruments.
- \* Enjoy making noise!



By Ana Paula G. Mummy, Speech/Language Pathologist, MS, CCC-SLP

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