



Music-making for babies and the early years



Music-making for everyone

Good Practice Guide

Early Years Musical Instruments & Music Kits

Please always remember that our Early Years products are musical instruments and NOT toys and should be used with young children only under the close supervision of responsible educationalists and carers. By following these simple guidelines you will ensure the children's learning, development and enjoyment of playing music, as well as their safety.

1. Bring the instruments out just for music sessions, and put them away afterwards (the children will love to help!). This keeps the instruments “special” and it avoids any risk of them being damaged in the course of unsupervised play, without your realising it.
2. Make sure your music sessions take place on a soft surface, whether inside or out.
3. By your own example encourage the children to treat the little instruments as we treat full size orchestral instruments - with sensitivity, gentleness and care.
4. Never allow children to play with any instrument unless closely supervised and don't let any child suck or bite any part of any instrument.
5. Don't let a child of any age play any musical instrument aggressively, especially close to the ear, as constant loud volumes can cause damage to their hearing.
6. After each music session, wipe down the instruments with a damp cloth if they're grubby (fine to use a mild disinfectant solution) and check for any loose parts (tug on any strings or moving parts) or cracks. If in any doubt, remove a damaged instrument from use and contact us for further advice (sending us a photo is a good start). Remember that small parts can pose a choking hazard to under 3s, so always be on your guard.

Any questions? Email care@drumsforschools.co.uk

Warning

**To be used under the direct supervision of an adult
Keep out of reach of under 3s**

Read the enclosed Good Practice Guide before using the instruments with children. Failure to follow the advice in the Guide could potentially expose children to choking hazards from small parts and damage to hearing.

Taking Care

Natural, tactile
musical instruments,
not plastic toys

The special quality of *Sound Children* musical instruments comes from the natural materials we use to make them and, treated with care, they will give you and your children musical and sensory satisfaction for many years.

The instruments have been designed and tested to be strong and to have a long useful life, but they're not indestructible! If they get thrown around, dropped onto hard surfaces, stood on or are treated roughly, they may break and could release small parts, posing a potential choking hazard to children under 3 years old.

So always treat them with care and never leave them with children unsupervised or let them be played close to the ear. See our *Good Practice Guide* for more guidance.

There really is nothing better for you and your children than playing and making music together - it's all in the interaction - so have fun playing and learning together!



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