



Children can use junk or home-made instruments to explore rhythm and learn how sounds can be changed.



Letters & Sounds



Playing with musical instruments outdoors encourages children to experiment with the sounds they can hear.



Instrumental Sounds

Letters & Sounds

In Early Years settings children learn Communication, Language and Literacy (CLLD) through lots of hands-on, play-based activities.

To support the teaching of CLLD, many settings use a phonics teaching programme called Letters and Sounds. This is split into 6 phases.

Phase 1

Phase 1 is vitally important as it lays the foundations for reading and writing. During this ongoing phase your child will learn to:

- have fun with sounds
- listen carefully
- speak confidently to adults and children
- develop their vocabulary
- tune into sounds
- listen and remember sounds
- talk about sounds
- understand that spoken words are made up of different sounds



Making large movements with scarves helps to develop physical skills necessary for writing.

Instrumental Sounds

This is part of Phase 1 and helps children listen and appreciate the differences between sounds made with instruments. You can support your child by trying some of the ideas below. The activities should be fun, so give your child plenty of encouragement and cuddles when you play with them. Smiles and praise will help them develop a sense of achievement and build their confidence - a vital skill for future learning

Phase 1 activities are all oral (spoken) - your child does not have to match letters to sounds at this stage. The emphasis here is on producing sounds in different ways eg loud and quiet, and describing sounds eg.squeaky, high, loud, wobbly.



Note which children can make up simple rhythms.

Ways you can support your child at home:

- **Band Time** Use cardboard rolls, tins, dried peas, rice, stones. To make shakers. Play them in different ways - loudly, softly, like a mouse, etc. as you are marching, skipping or tip-toeing, stomping. At the end, play 'guess what's inside the instrument'.
- **Loud & soft** Borrow some instruments from the toy library at your local Children's Centre. Explore ways to play them, then take it in turns to copy a rhythm, or a loud/long sound.
- **Matching Pairs** Make other instruments using yogurt pots or plastic bottles - put sugar, salt, rice or pasta inside to make different sounds. Make two of each sound and play a matching pairs game.
- **Drums** use a selection of objects made from different materials eg metal pans, plastic buckets, a wooden box - use them to play the drums to your favourite songs. Play them quietly, loudly, fast, slow.

Remember: Speaking and listening are the foundations for reading and writing