

ACTIVITIES FOR “MAKING GOOD NOISE”

THEME: *We are surrounded by all kinds of sound every day. If music is sound, and sound is noise, then making good music is making good noise.*

MUSIC: Listen to the Tom Chapin song “Making Good Noise.” What are the ways Tom and his friends made “Good” noise? What other ways can you make good noise? Can you sing, whistle, hum, blow into a blade of grass? Does your bird sing? Your dog?

LANGUAGE ARTS: The song talks about “Good Noise.” Ask students to discuss what “Bad Noise” might be (e.g. leaf blowers, sirens, jackhammers, yelling). What do you do when you hear bad noise?

ARITHMETIC: Have the students participate in a music game. Start by clapping out 4 equal beats. Split the class into 4 groups. Assign each group different parts (numbers). Group 1 claps on beats 1 and 3, Group 2 claps on beats 1 and 4, Group 3 claps on 3 and 4, Group 4 claps on 2 and 3 and 4. When you get good, increase the tempo. Switch parts. Use the instruments you make (below) instead of clapping hands. Play some music while you are counting out the beats (you may have to change the number of beats, depending on the song you choose). For older students, introduce the concept of half notes and quarter notes.



ART: People have been making music with friends and family from the beginning of time. All instruments were made by hand, before there were stores to shop in. There are many instruments that can easily be made with supplies you already have. To make shakers you need three basic supplies: small objects to make the sound, something hollow to put them in, and a way to seal it up. A handle can also be added. Experiment with different materials in various containers. Gather any of the following supplies, or substitute other materials: Beans, rice, pasta, pits, seeds, shells, pebbles, buttons, (unpopped) popcorn, paper clips, bells, paper plates, string or yarn, newspaper, wax paper, chopsticks, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, containers (any size or material will do - oatmeal boxes, plastic containers with lids, plastic eggs), tape, glue. Add supplies to decorate the instruments: Stickers, paint, glitter, feathers, markers.

ACTIVITIES FOR “MAKING GOOD NOISE” (continued)

Instructions for a few specific instruments are shown below, but use your imagination - there are no rules!

TAMBOURINE: Place two paper or plastic plates facing each other. Seal them together with glue, tape or by punching holes and tying them together. Use a hole puncher to punch around the rim. Thread yarn or string through the holes, joining the two plates with a knot. Leave enough yarn to tie on jingle bells. For a variation, put some rice between the plates before you seal them.

HORN: Cover one end of an empty paper towel or toilet paper roll with wax paper. Attach with a rubber band. Poke a row of holes in the tube.

SHAKERS: Put a handful of rice (or other filling that will rattle) in one half of any container. Seal with glue or tape. Decorate. You can also make great shakers with paper mache.

CYMBALS: Use 2 CD's. String a bead larger than the center hole. Make a loop for your finger, and tie a knot.

KAZOO: Fold a piece of tissue paper over the tooth edge of a comb. To play, hum through the tissue paper.

DRAMATIZATION: Make a Rainbow Piano by filling several bottles with water at different levels (add food coloring for fun, or if you want to write out music for simple songs). If it's too messy, or you don't want to use glass, you can simulate this experiment online at: www.lhs.berkeley.edu/shockwave/jar.html.

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[The Big Book of Music Games](#) / Debra Olson Pressnall & Lorilee Malecha

[101 Music Games for Children: Fun and Learning with Rhythm and Song](#) / Jerry Storms

