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Suits ages 16 – 36 months



What you will need:

- Musical Instruments e.g. drums and shakers

What you do:

1. With your child take turns using different instruments, exploring the different sounds they all make when played.
2. Play the instrument/s for example, hit the drum once, twice, and then shake the shaker and so on, asking your child to copy you afterwards. Allow enough time for your child to think about what they saw and to copy you.
3. Create different patterns hitting the drum and then shaking the shaker. You can count out loud each time you hit the drum, encouraging your child to count with you when copying.
4. Swap roles and allow your child to lead first before you copy what they did.
5. For older children you may wish to ask them to close their eyes whilst you play the instruments so that they have to remember the patterns purely by sound. This is a great way to encourage instrument and sound recognition/association.

Call and response is a great way to enhance memory skills and concentration. Your child will have to watch closely, or listen to, what you do before they are able to copy you. Counting out the times you bang the drum or shake a shaker also introduces maths skills.

When your child is leading you are allowing them to be creative with the use of instruments and they have to think about what they want to play and how they want to play it.