



Parent Guide

How can I use this with my children?

Follow these step-by-step instructions together to create some amazing DIY musical instruments made out of recycled materials.

How does this help my children's learning?

By getting creative and crafty with this resource, children can practise following instructions and using fine motor skills to assemble their instruments.

Ideas for further learning:

Once your child has made their own musical instruments, why not encourage them to write their own song or piece of music?



A Guide to Musycling

What happens when you mix fun and lively music with recycling? You get... musycling! This is a fun form of recycling that involves craft, science and, above all, music! With musycling you turn rubbish and unwanted items into fantastic musical instruments that can be played again and again. Children can explore sound and compose their own tunes and songs with the instruments they create.

You will need:

Used materials, such as empty boxes, cereal boxes, egg holders, elastic bands, yoghurt tubs, dried rice and pasta, old pots and pans and foil. There are so many possibilities.

Glue

A pair of scissors

Sticky tape

Decorating materials, such as coloured paper, sequins or paint.

Note: If using tin cans and other similar materials, make sure that the items have been checked thoroughly for sharp edges before use.

On the accompanying sheets you will find some ideas of musycle instruments you can make with rubbish from around your home, such as boxes, tin cans and plastic bottles. These instructions can also be used as inspiration to create your own musycle instruments. Once completed, your children can have hours of fun creating their own tunes and songs. You may even wish to plan a musycle orchestra in which they can showcase their songs to friends and family.



1 Firstly, think about the type of instrument you'd like to make. Will it be a string instrument? A shaker? A drum? A wind instrument?

2 Choose your materials – look for things that you think will make an interesting sound when you bang or shake them. What materials would be good to make the type of instrument you want?

3 Finally, once you have made and decorated your instruments, use them to create your own musycle song or rubbish rap. It could be a song that explains to people how to recycle or why recycling is good for the environment.

Musycle Drums

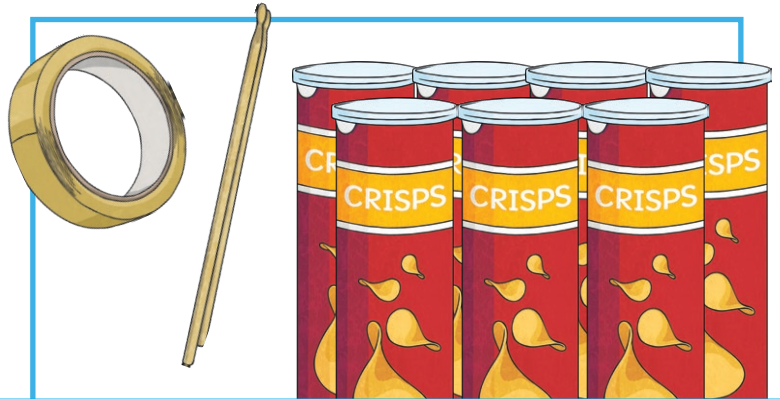
Drums create the rhythm for almost every tune, making it a key instrument when making music. Drums can be made from many items such as tin cans, paint tins, plastic tubs, boxes and much more! This fun musycle drum is really simple and can be made from recycled crisp tubes and some strong tape.

You will need:

Seven empty crisp tubes

Strong tape

Drum sticks (chopsticks work well for these)



1 Place the crisp cans in a circle with one in the middle.

2 Use the tape to attach the tubes together. (You can decorate the tubes beforehand with paint and stickers to make them look extra special.)

3 You can also use the tape to create a strap for the drums. Cut the length you need and then fold the tape in half to seal the sticky sides together. Attach to the cans and you have your own set of drums!

Hints and Tips

- You can make drums out of many different household objects : what others can you make?

Disclaimer:

We hope the information on our website and resource is useful. However, some ingredients and/or materials used might cause allergic reactions, so if you have any concerns about your own or somebody else's health or wellbeing, always speak to a qualified health professional. Remember, activities listed within the resource should always be supervised by an appropriate adult.

Musycle Shakers

Shakers can be made in many different ways and from different materials. All you need is a container (a plastic bottle, yoghurt pot, etc.) and something to fill the container with (dried rice, dried pasta, nuts, seeds, etc.). You will have lots of fun experimenting with different containers and fillings to see what different sounds the shakers make.

You will need:

Plastic bottle or yoghurt pot

Coloured paper

Stickers

Dried rice (or other fillings such as dried pasta or lentils)



1 Fill the empty pot or bottle with some dried fillings to make the rattle sound.

2 Cover the open end of the pot or bottle with paper or another container. Secure in place with sticky tape.

3 Surround the shaker with coloured paper and stickers.

Hints and Tips

- This musycle instrument can be used as a shaker or try beating the top to use it as a drum.

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Musycle Guitar

Your child will love creating songs and melodies on this recycled guitar. Guitars can be made from many materials and a few elastic bands - you can have great fun trying to make guitars with different materials. Follow these instructions to make a guitar that has a neck (just like a real one).

You will need:

A cardboard box with a lid (a shoe box would work for this)

A long cardboard tube (like you get in kitchen roll or in tin foil)

Glue

Sticky tape

Scissors

Decorations (optional)



1 Carefully cut a hole in the lid of the box (like the sound hole in a guitar) and glue the box lid to the box.

2 Attach the cardboard tube to one end of the box using glue and sticky tape.

3 Add the elastic bands so that they go over the sound hole. You can choose how to attach the elastic bands as this may affect the sound.

4 Finally, decorate your instrument and you have your own musycle guitar!

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