

# DIY Musical Instruments

## Instrument 1: Wind chimes

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### STEP 1: GET INSPIRED!

- What are wind chimes?
- What do they usually look like?
- What sounds do they typically make?

### STEP 2: GATHER MATERIALS

- A clothes hanger
- Colourful yarn
- Paintbrushes and paint (optional)
- Scissors
- Decorative items

To make wind chimes, you can use items which you can find around the house or at school. Be creative! Practically anything which makes a sound, and which is lightweight enough to be attached to the hanger can be used.

### STEP 3: LET'S EXPLORE!

- What sound does each item make? Test it out!
- What happens to the sound when the items are hit against items made of the same material? Compare the sound to when they are hit against items made of different materials.
- After you have listened to all the sounds, which items do you want to include in your wind chime?



### WHAT ITEMS CAN THE STUDENTS THINK OF?

The following materials are a good starting point:

- Recycled and home items: bottle caps (plastic or metal), CDs, plastic cutlery, yoghurt cups, dried pasta
- Wooden objects: pencils, wooden sticks, large beads, clothes pegs, popsicle sticks
- Metal objects: spoons, forks, keys, metal cans, nuts and bolts

### STEP 4: MAKE YOUR WIND CHIME

1. Paint and decorate the items you will be using for the wind chime. Leave out to dry.
2. Cut 5 pieces (or more) of string or yarn of various lengths (around 30-60cm).
3. Once the painted items are dry, help students tie every object to the yarn threads.
4. Tie the ends of the yarn threads to the clothes hanger, making sure that the items can hit each other to make a sound.
5. Test the wind chimes in front of a fan or outside in the wind to listen to the combination of sounds. Improve your design if needed.
6. Share your creation with us on social media [@esploramalta](#) [#esploramalta](#).



# Instrument 2: Musical Shakers

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## STEP 1: GATHER MATERIALS

Gather metal containers of similar size and material, and which have a lid. Ideally the containers are not transparent so that children are unable to see what the container is filled with.

Fill the containers with rice, pasta and beads, or with similar materials. We recommend that you use items that the students are familiar with.

## STEP 2: LET'S EXPLORE!

Conduct an experiment to answer questions in relation to the containers – this is a form of “research”. Scientists come up with questions to try and understand the world around them. Then they conduct experiments to learn more! The aim of the activity is not to get the right answer, but rather to use their senses to explore, make auditory observations and make predictions, while listening to other students’ ideas.

Rules:

- The containers cannot be opened
- The items inside cannot be touched.
- The containers can be turned, shaken, etc.

Pass around the shakers and ask students questions, about the items inside:

- Shake the container. Does the sound remind you of anything?
- Do you think the object inside is heavy or light?
- What shape is it? Do you think it’s round? Square? Why?
- Do you think it’s rough or smooth?
- What do you think it’s made of? Wood? Metal? Plastic? Why?
- What do you think is in the box? Write or draw your conclusion!

## STEP 3: GET CREATIVE!

Encourage students to create their own version of a musical shaker; create sound and learn through play!

Go on a scavenger hunt around the school and garden to look for items that are small enough to be placed in a metal or shatterproof glass container with a lid, such as small rocks, paperclips, and crayons.

Then create a range of musical shakers which the students can use to create ‘music!’

