

Exploring Music: Sound Play

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In music, the quality or characteristic of a sound is known as 'timbre'. Imagine the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. If this song was played on a piano and then the exact same tune played on a trumpet the actual sound would be different from one instrument to the next. This is the timbre of the instrument. Everyday sounds also have their own timbres that can be fascinating to young children.

Young children love exploring the sounds that objects make. They shake, tap, scrape and press things to discover what sounds comes out. This sound play helps them learn about cause and effect and fosters listening skills. It also encourages curiosity and creativity. When talking about timbres with young children you can refer to sounds such as spiky sounds, smooth sounds, spooky sounds, scratchy sounds, exploding sounds and so on. Children will often come up with extremely descriptive language when describing sounds - you can encourage this by asking them to describe them.

So what does this mean for you?



The key message is simple: join in with and encourage children to explore, investigate and discover sounds that can be found all around us - this can be anything from tapping a spoon on a table or highchair, jumping on crunchy leaves or running a twig along a railing. This helps children explore and understand the world around them. Use the song 'Can you make a sound like this?' to celebrate all sorts of sounds!

Playing with sound:

- ★ Explore safe household objects and the sounds they can make
- ★ Talk about the different sounds you hear together during everyday moments of play time
- ★ Explore the outdoors and the sounds that can be made with outside objects and nature



The Family Music Hub offers training and support to everyone who makes music with under fives and their families in the community. Find more information: www.thefamilymusicclub.org