

[Intro](#) [Group](#) [Paper](#) [Recycled](#) [Fabric](#) [Natural](#) [Seasonal](#) [Special](#) [Quick](#) [Links](#)

Snow Storms

Age Group: 6+

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: 2 half hour sessions



You will need a small jar with a well fitting lid for each person.

Use polymer clay (such as fimo) to create a model to go inside your snowtorm. Ensure that it will fit inside the lid of your chosen jar and allow the jar to be closed over the top. The clay must then be baked until hard.

Use a hot glue gun or waterproof glue to attach your model to the inside of the jar lid. Place a small amount of glitter in the jar and fill with water almost to the top. Now fasten the lid tightly. For extra security you could glue the lid on.

Money Boxes

Age Group: 6+

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: 1/2 hour

It takes a while to gather up all the containers for this so you will need to plan it in advance

Use the cardboard drums from gravy mix or cocoa powder (the type with the press on plastic lids). Using a craft knife cut a slit either in the lid or on the side of the drum (about 2 cm from the top) making sure it is large enough for a coin to fit through. You may want to do this before the session.

Decorate the money box by sticking on coloured paper. If you want to paint it you might find that a coat of acrylic primer will help powder paints to stick.

Fish Tank

Age Group: 6+

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: 3/4 hour

An interesting alternative to mobiles.

Take an empty cardboard box (such as a shoe box) or large ice cream tub. Paint the inside of the box with an underwater scene. If the box is plastic you will need to do this on paper then glue it in.

Make fish and other underwater creatures from cardboard. Hang these from the top of the box so that the open side of the box is facing forwards. Make plants from stiff card and stick to the bottom of the box. You could also glue shells or sand to your sea floor.

If your box has a lid you can cut out the centre of it and replace it with clear plastic (or cling film) to form a side for your tank or you could leave it open so that your fish move in the breeze.

You could also try making different scenes, how about the sky or an alien landscape.

Printing Blocks

Age Group: 6+

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: Half an hour

The basis for these printing blocks is thin sheets of plastic packaging foam (of the type used for

packing electrical equipment)

Cut out s shape from the foam, simple shapes work well. Glue this to a piece of stiff card or a block of wood. Remember that the shapes will come out the opposite way round when printed. If you want to use the block straight away it is best to use a glue stick. Use a paintbrush to apply a thin layer of paint to the block and press it firmly onto the paper.

Try getting each child to make a block then sharing with the rest of the group to print the pictures.

You can also create printing blocks by gluing lengths of string to this card though this is more fiddly and results in a lot of sticky fingers.

Glitter scenes

Age Group: 6+

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: Half an hour

Unfortunately the best bottles for these tend to contain highly coloured fizzy drinks but any clear plastic bottles with screw tops will work.

Cut shapes from coloured plastic cartons, these must be small enough to fit through the neck of the bottle. You could also put in small plastic toys. Put the shapes in the bottle and half fill it with water, add a couple of teaspoons of glitter and screw on the top.

Next take a piece of paper which covers about half the bottle and draw a background for your scene. Stick this on using stick tape. The bottle should lay on it's side with the paper covering the back. You can make a stand for your glitter scene from cardboard or use some plaster scene to stop it rolling around. Shake and watch.

Instead of glitter you could use a squirt of washing up liquid and have a bubble scene. You could also add a couple of drops of food colouring to the water.

Oil Burner

Age Group: 13+

Ideal Number: One or more

Amount of Time: Over 60 mins.

The oil burner is a superb way to reuse an old fork and spoon. You will require some needle nose pliers, a drill with a small metal bit and some way to apply solder to things.

Firstly we must bend the fork to form a stand. The fork is bent 180 degrees in the middle and the outer two prongs are bent down so the fork can balance on its heel using the two prongs to stabilise it.

Now we must attach the spoon (oil reservoir) to the fork. We drill two small holes at the heel of the spoon so we can slide it onto the fork, the bowl of the spoon should be pointing away from the prongs. The spoon should be sealed into place with solder. This can be applied with a soldering iron or by wrapping solder around the joint and melting it with a miniature blow torch (the torch must be small or you will discolour the metal).

The final touches to the oil burner are to bend the middle prongs of the fork to support a night-light candle and to bend the bowl of the spoon around to sit directly above the night-light.

Toys and Games

Cup and Ball game

Age Group: 6+
Ideal Number: Whole group
Amount of Time: 20 minutes

Practice your catching skills

Start by taking half a sheet of newspaper and screwing it into a tight ball. Secure this with a couple of pieces of stick tape. Now attach a length of string (about 30cm long) to the ball. Using more sticky tape attach the other end of the string to the cup about half way down the outside.

You can decorate the cup either by sticking on coloured paper or by painting it with a mixture of paint and PVA glue.

Skittles

Age Group: 6+
Ideal Number: Whole group
Amount of Time: Half an hour



You can use any plastic bottles with screw tops though it may be best to have enough of each sort for one set of skittles.

Fill each bottle to about 2cm deep with sand. This stops the skittles falling over to easily. Screw on the tops and decorate by sticking on coloured paper. Experiment with different bottles.

Instead of sand you could partially fill the bottles with water. You could also make table top skittles using small bottles

Alternatively you could completely fill the bottles with sand and use them as markers when playing games.

Paddle boats

Age Group: 6+
Ideal Number: Whole group
Amount of Time: Half an hour

Take a rectangular plastic container (such as a margarine tub) it must not have holes in the bottom. Attach a stick down each of the long sides using sticky tape or elastic bands. The sticks need to be about 10cm longer than the plastic carton and should overhang on the same end.

Cut a rectangle about 8cm * 4cm from a margarine tub lid. Use a hole punch to make a hole half way down the long edge on each side of the rectangle This is you paddle. Thread an elastic band through both holes. This should leave you with a loop at each side of the rectangle. Hook the sticks through these loops. Wind up the elastic band by turning the paddle then put the boat in the water and let it go.

Musical Instruments

Warblers

Age Group: 6-9
Ideal Number: Whole group
Amount of Time: 10-15 minutes

These simple toys make a quiet sound rather like a bird warbling.



Take a plastic film container (ask at your local film developing shop to see if they will save them for you). Start by piercing a hole in the bottom using a sharp point or hot skewer. You may prefer to do this before the session. Now remove the lid and using scissors cut a slit about 1.5 cm long. Cut a second slit about 1 cm away giving you a flap. Push this flap inside the container. Thread a length of wool through the hole in the bottom of the container, tying several knots inside. It should be about as long as the persons leg. It is important to use wool not string so that it will break if it gets tangled around anything and will not harm anyone. Finally replace the lid, if your slit was large you may need to use some tape to hold it on.

To work the warbler you will need to be in a large open space. Whirl it around and listen. It is safest the work it in vertical circles so that you can see that it will not hit anyone.

Drums

Age Group: 6-9

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: 10-15 minutes

Make a variety of drums, use different things to beat them and explore the different sounds

Take a cardboard tube or solid box and a balloon. Cut the neck off the balloon and stretch it over the tube. The children often need to work in pairs to do this. Having done that tape the balloon in position.

Experiment with different tubes, different sizes, lengths, open or closed at the end. Try putting rice inside the drum or stretching a couple of elastic bands over the skin. Also try hitting the drum with different things, your hand, a strew, a pencil etc.

Guitar

Age Group: 6-9

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: 10-15 minutes

This is really simple to make, take a cardboard box and tape the end shut. Now take a rectangle of strong card. Fold it into three and tape into a triangle (like a Toblerone) glue this to the top of the box about a quarter of the way along. This acts as a bridge and allows the strings to sound properly. Now stretch elastic bands around the box

You can tune the guitar by varying the tightness of the bands, pull some of the elastic band round the back of the box for a higher note. You can also press the string down with your hand like on real guitar

Maracas

Age Group: 6-9

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: Three sessions of 30-40 minutes

These take longer to make than any of the other instruments but are very effective. Start by tearing lots of newspaper into small pieces. Now take a Partially blown up balloon or a potato and cover in Vaseline. Using plenty of glue cover the balloon in several layers of the newspaper. It needs to be quite thick. Leave this to dry until completely hard.

Using a craft knife cut the ball in half and remove the balloon or potato. Place some rice, dried peas or something similar into one half. Now using more strips of paper glue the two halves together. Finish with a layer of white paper or kitchen roll. This makes it easier to paint. If you want to create a handle then cut a small notch out of both halves before gluing them together and insert a length of doweling. If you glue a bead to the end it will be easier to keep it in place. Make sure there are plenty

of strips of paper on the outside holding it in place.

Once the final layers of paper are dry you can paint your maracas. You may also like to varnish them to give a tougher finish. This will also help to waterproof them.

Rain Stick

Age Group: 6-9

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: Half an hour

An interesting variation on the standard dried pea shakers

You will need four paper cups, start by cutting the bottom out of one of them and some small holes in the bottom of a second. Now cut two circles of card drawing round the open end of a cup to get the size. Cut small holes into both of these circles. The holes need to be big enough to let the rice or peas fall through gradually.

Now take a complete cup, the cup with no bottom and one of the circles of card. Sandwich the card between the two cups which should be placed with the tops together. Tape all this into position. Tape the cup with holes in the bottom and tape this (bottoms together) onto the bottomless cup. Now place a handful of rice or dried peas into your rain stick. Sandwich the final circle of card between your final complete cup and the rest of the rain stick.

Quick Instrument Selection

Age Group: 6-9

Ideal Number: Whole group

Amount of Time: 10-15 minutes

Great for adding variety to your band or sound effects to your play

Put rice, peas or sand into a container with a tightly fitting lid and decorate

Thread foil milk bottle tops onto a length of string. Shake to make a gentle noise

Make a hole in the through bottle top by hammering a nail through them. Thread three or four onto a nail and hammer into a length of wood. Put five or six sets on the finish your rattle.

Take two blocks of wood and glue sandpaper to one side. Rub the blocks together. Make sure you rub the papered sides together or you will find your blocks getting smaller!

Take two block of wood. Sand until smooth and bang together.

Fold a piece of card concertina style. Open it out so that you have a series of ridges. It can be strengthened by gluing it into a second piece of card. To play run a stick across the ridges.

[Intro](#) [Group](#) [Paper](#) [Recycled](#) [Fabric](#) [Natural](#) [Seasonal](#) [Special](#) [Quick](#) [Links](#)

Copyright © 1999-2003 Merlin and Laughing Hyena