

Outdoor Musical stage

Overview

This play activity provides an opportunity to build a musical performance zone that can be used to get creative. It is a great way of recycling old instruments or items and will produce different musical and performance experiences to an inside space.

Equipment

- Different size sticks and other natural materials such as stones, pinecones or conkers.
- Old or recycled objects e.g. saucepans, colanders, toys etc made from a range of different materials.
- Old curtains, sheets, tarpaulins or other material.
- String or rope to hang your instruments.

Activity

1. Identify an area where there is space to make a music zone that won't disturb others.
2. Existing structures such as fences, walls or trees can be useful to hang your 'musical instruments' from but are not essential.
3. Hang or place a range of items to create 'musical instruments' that can be easily accessed and experimented with.
4. Get creative with a variety of materials and locations for your musical instruments.
5. Try putting items near to each other so they will make sounds together or even putting things inside each other e.g stones in an old tube, or crunchy leaves in a washing up bowl.
6. In addition to your instruments, why not make a stage or paint a backdrop on a wall or fence to create a performance area.

Further activities

1. Explore the differences between your musical creations – are any of them similar to traditional instruments or sounds you know?
2. Experiment with making a range of volume, rhythms, tones or sounds with different pitches.
3. Listen to the sounds that are made by the music zone without any human interaction e.g. Do they make noises in the wind or other weathers? What happens when you hit or move them with different objects?
4. Use your music zone to play a song or tune that you know and ask your friends to guess what it is.
5. Leave out a range of props that might inspire singing, dancing, poetry or drama performances and invite others to come and watch.