

ParentChild+

Equal Possibilities From The Start

TOY GUIDE SHEET: BAND IN A BOX

Supporting literacy development & school readiness.



This toy will engage children of all ages in activities that will support many facets of development. Band in A Box musical instruments introduce pretend play. Children can pretend to be in a marching band, launch a solo career or just enjoy exploring music and sounds. Each instrument differs in shape, size and sound. Children will enjoy creating their own music and developing gross motor skills. This will help children to expose their inner musician to different tones, volume, and rhythms. Help your child explore their musician skills.

HOW TO PLAY

Introduce the activity and encourage a variety of ways to play.

- Place the band in a box in a large space, where all children can easily see and explore the different instruments. Encourage discussion about what they notice and identify in the box.
- If you have extra instruments, provide one to each child. If you don't, explain that you'll be taking turns, which will require everyone to be patient.
- Consider starting off by letting children grab an instrument and encourage conversation and allow children to explore by playing with the instrument and singing along to a song, "Baby Shark".

Name and encourage children to name:

- Colors: **Red Yellow Blue Silver** and **Green**
- Textures: **Different instruments: Smooth**
- Shapes: Circle; Square; Triangle
- Sounds: Loud; Low,

"If you're ready"
(Tune: If you're happy and you know it)
If you're ready for a story, take a seat
If you're ready for a story, take a seat
Clap your hands and stomp your feet
Make your hands all nice and neat
If you're ready for a story, take a seat

Remind children to think about what they are doing, while they do it.

- Attention: Do a round where you assign each child an instrument to play with.
- Self-control: We'll have to take turns so everyone has a chance playing with **all** instruments.
- Pretend: Let's pretend we're musicians exploring music! What type of music do you want to dance to?

Vocabulary

Tambourine Drum
Maracas Tone Blocks

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- **Matching/Sorting.** Invite children to compare the colors and sizes of the instruments.
- **Stay involved** by narrating children's actions, singing familiar songs, and reminding them to take turns.

ACTIVITY TIPS

- **Encourage** children to talk, give **praise**, **ask** questions, **listen** to their answers, and **respond**. Doing these five things will invite conversation and remind children that they are respected and valued.

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- **Keep it manageable.** Attention spans of the children in your care will vary and it's okay for a child to lose focus for a bit. Designate a maximum of 15 minutes for one activity and remember it's okay to take breaks, move around, and/or sing songs!
- **Follow their lead.** It may turn out that some children's attention is elsewhere during the activity. Instead of forcing them to participate, start a conversation based on what they seem interested in!
- **Create conversation.** There's always room for talk during play time. Describe your actions and invite children to describe theirs. Talk about relationships, what causes things to happen, etc.
- **HAVE FUN!** Children will be most engaged and enthusiastic if you're enjoying the activity. Don't worry about it going to plan—let the children explore!

Remember:

Artwork and activities may not always come out as expected or go to plan—and that's okay! The important thing is to provide opportunities for children to express themselves and learn from experience.

WHAT TO EXPECT

	Babies (Birth to 1)	Toddlers (1 to 3)	Preschoolers (3 to 5)
They will:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to movements, sounds, and gestures • Babble, imitate sounds, produce words • Make gestures and sounds to communicate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a lot of questions about names for things, cause and effect, etc. • Desire independence • Enjoy answering your questions, following simple directions, and discussing a lot! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize letters and numbers • Understand social-emotional cues like taking turns and helping others • Ask a lot of "why" questions
You can:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct comments to them using their names, noises, and gestures • Respond to and extend their sounds • Let them handle materials and experiment with banging them together, dropping, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help them make connections to their own experiences • Be patient—they may get frustrated and will appreciate your sensitive support • Allow them to make decisions, choose how they put things together, what pieces to use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for them to experiment, make new rules, or explain the activity • Ask them to be special helpers for the younger children • Use complex language and provide explanations

With *all* children in your care: Use a lot of vocabulary, ask questions, and start conversations!

This toy targets the following sections in the FCCERS: Indoor gross motor play, Music and Movement, Dramatic Play