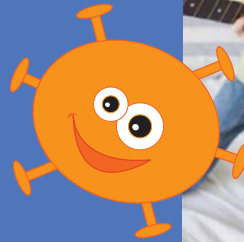


A Practical Guide



My Mini Monsters



Help your kids create
a D.I.Y band





Help Your Kids Create a D.I.Y Band

We've all had dreams of performing in front of thousands, taking to the west end stage or writing a number 1 hit, but for most those thoughts are now a long and distant memory.

That doesn't have to be the case for you mini monsters. Help them to create their own personal sound and write a future hit by creating their own D.I.Y band. For all seriously cool kids, let your little one bring their rock star dreams to life by getting together their own band and making their instruments. Get brothers, sisters and friends to become creative with paints, paper and glue, by designing their own instruments and producing a musical masterpiece.

What you will need for the instruments:

Kazoo: toilet roll tube
elastic band
1 piece of waxed paper

Drums: pots/Pans
2 different sized buckets/chocolate tins
chopsticks

Xylophone: 5 glass jars
water

Chimes: Kitchen cutlery - spoons

Bells: bottle tops (approximately 10)
hair band

Shaker: salt tub shaker

Extras: paint, coloured paper, glue, scissors, felt tips, crayons, ribbon



How to make your instruments:

Kazoo - use an old toilet roll with a piece of waxed paper secured over the end with an elastic band, then just hum into the open end.

Drums - collect pots and pans of various sizes to create a drum kit. Add a mellow sound by using two different sized buckets turned upside down for a great set of bongos (upturned chocolate tins could also be decorated and used).

Xylophone - line up at least five glasses filled with water to different levels to create different tones. Jam jars or cooking sauce jars are the perfect size to create different sounds.

Chimes - pull out a set of kitchen cutlery and just set one piece on each 'arm' of a cutlery stand.

Bells - collect old bottle tops and string about five to ten on an old hair band. These are likely to be found on milk or beer bottles.

Shaker - find a tube of salt in the cupboard or buy one very cheaply in the supermarket. Get your little ones to paint the packaging and stick coloured paper and ribbon all around the shaker. It can then be used to create a wispy sound when shaken.

Don't forget that the performance needs to be advertised or proud parents may not know when the event is taking place. Get your kids to design the posters with crayons and felt-tips and let them be displayed around the house. They can also have fun by making tickets for the special guests that will be attending the grand performance.

Each child should be encouraged to pen their own songs and take centre stage for their performance. Confident types may prefer to be the lead singer, while the backing band can be on hand to provide the funky sound. For those shy types like our mini monster Oscar who don't like to be the centre of attention, let them collect the tickets and show people to their seats.

Who knows, your mini monster could be a star of the future.