



nitty ★ gritty
★ super city ★



SCIENCEWORKS



Music

Description of photo

A variety of instruments made from different materials are present in the music bowl, allowing children to experiment with sound.

More information

Instruments work by creating particular vibrations in the air.

The instruments in this area are: glockenspiel, thong-a-phone, chimes, bells and a washboard.

Many of the instruments have been designed to produce five different notes. Longer keys in chimes make lower notes.

Learning outcomes

In this activity, children will:

- use their senses to explore the world around them
- describe their activities and observations using both general and science-specific language
- participate in very simple investigations involving observation
- make predictions and test them
- sort objects according to basic criteria
- make use of co-operative skills when working with others
- observe and describe phenomena relevant to how sounds are made.

Pre-visit questions

1. What are the girls doing?
2. What do you think would happen if they used their fingers to hit these instruments instead of the sticks?
3. If someone else wanted to use the same musical instrument that you wanted to use, how could you work this out?

Post-visit questions

1. Which instrument did you like the best?
2. What were the instruments made of?
3. Where else could instruments be played?
4. Which instruments were made out of wood or steel?
5. Can you think of any other materials that could be used to make musical instruments?
6. How could you make sounds using a bottle? (You could test some of these ideas with the children)

During your visit

- Compare the sounds of different instruments made of wood, steel, bamboo or brass.
- Encourage children to notice how the different sized keys and chimes make high and low notes.
- Ask children to place their hand on the bell as soon as it starts ringing. Have them explain what they notice. Did they feel anything? Did anything happen to the sound?