

RUBBER BAND SOUND JAM

ACTIVITY TO DO AT HOME



EXPLORE THE SOUNDS AND VIBRATIONS OF A RUBBER BAND INSTRUMENT.

How can you make different sounds with a rubber band instrument?

TIME 15 minutes

MATERIALS

- 1 small, sturdy cardboard box
- 3 or more rubber bands of assorted widths, large enough to fit around the box

DIRECTIONS

1 SET UP

- Gather the materials.
- You may want to try making a rubber band instrument yourself, before your child builds it. (See the picture.)



2 GOAL

Your child will build a rubber band instrument. They will **test** how to change the sounds the rubber bands make. They will **observe** the vibrating rubber bands and **compare** the sounds they make.

3 EXPLORE

Your child can use the materials to build a rubber band instrument. Before they start, review safety rules for working with rubber bands:

- Don't shoot rubber bands.
- Don't stretch the rubber bands too far, or they may break and hurt someone.
- Don't put rubber bands in mouths.

If needed, you can be the helper and hold the box while your child stretches the rubber bands around the box.



4 EXPLORE

Your child can pluck the rubber bands to play their rubber band instrument! Encourage your child to describe what happens when they pluck the rubber bands. They may **notice** that the rubber bands vibrate as they make sounds!

5 EXPLORE

Your child can change the way the instrument sounds. Here's one way to try: You can stretch a rubber band away from the side of the box while your child plucks it.

Encourage your child to **predict** whether the sound will be different. How do they think the sound may change? Then ask them to describe how the sound is different from before.

You and your child can try stretching the rubber band a lot or a little. How does stretching the rubber band change the sound?



6 SHARE

Encourage your child to **share** what they noticed:

- What did they **observe** about how the rubber band looks and sounds when they pluck it?
- How did they change the sound the rubber band makes?
- What did they **notice** about the stretched rubber band? Ask them to **compare** the before and after sounds.

7 MORE WAYS TO PLAY

- Your child may enjoy making up a song on their rubber band instrument.
- If you like, you may make another rubber band instrument and play together!



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