

Personal Music Kit

This is a strange time we live in but I'm so glad we have music to help us get through it! While music class will be a bit different this year, you can fully participate in all the important learning with a simple music kit. Most of the items you can probably gather from things around your home.



Cleaning - Both at Home and School

1. Wash hands before and after music class.
2. Mallets can be dunked in a bleach wash (handles down). A bleach wash is a capful of bleach in a sink or bucket of water.
3. Sanitizing spray for things that can't get wet.
[Microban 24 | Sanitizing Spray Available | microban24.com](https://microban24.com)
4. Recorders can be washed in the dishwasher then dunked in a bleach wash like in #2 above.

General Music Kit - BASIC

1. **A gallon-sized bag, shopping bag, or other container** to hold your kit.
2. **A shaker.**
You could use a small plastic container like these from Glad. A plastic egg (like from Easter) would also work. (Eggs might need to be taped closed, especially for younger children.)

Put a few popcorn kernels or other small items inside. Some possibilities could be dried beans, paperclips, small stones - use your imagination!



3. **Two wooden sticks** of some kind.

While you probably don't have rhythm sticks, lummi sticks or even drum sticks at your house, you might have:

- Pencils
- Dowels (wooden rods)
- Wooden spoons
- Two small sticks from the yard

Best case is that the two wooden objects are the same size and weight.



4. **A scraper** of some sort.

One very inexpensive idea is a **pool noodle scraper** (I may make some of these for the classroom - they work great and they're indestructible!) [Here's a video](#) of a master teacher showing how to make them - super simple!



In our classroom we use sandpaper blocks. You might have some of those around so that would be great. I did find some sanding sponges that would also work.

This one from Home Depot is \$4.27 - you would need two. Not necessary, but if you have them around the house, that would work.

5. Movement tools.

Of course all movement really needs is your body! However, movement activities are enhanced by scarves, ribbon sticks or paper plates. You can create your own versions of a scarf with a plastic bag, a bandana, or even a t-shirt, A piece of wrapping ribbon or hair ribbon can be tied or taped to a pencil.

6. Soprano Recorder (grades 4-6)

Older students (grades 4-6) will need a **soprano recorder**. If you don't have one, you can pick one up at school (brand new) for \$4.25. This is a REQUIRED item for grades 4-6 from the beginning of the year. Grade 3 students start recorder in January.

General Music Kit - ADD ONs

These items are OPTIONAL but would enhance your child's experience.

1. **A container** to hold your stuff. A small trash can or other bin could also be used as a drum.

The one pictured is a bathroom wastebasket from Dollar Tree (\$1).

If you're using a zip bag to hold your stuff, you will need some sort of drumming container. Ideas other than a plastic trash can:

- Large yogurt container
- Powdered protein container
- Any kind of bucket
- Cardboard box

Now, if you happen to have a hand drum of some sort in your house, then you're already there!

2. Metal instrument

It would be great if I had enough triangles or finger cymbals for every student, but we don't. The "ting" sound is what we're looking for here so if you have something at home that gives that sort of sound, you're good to go. If not, here are some options. I've put a couple of options here but you only need ONE thing. Again, if you can come up with that sound from something around the house, that's awesome!

Triangle:

Musician's Friend has an [inexpensive classroom triangle](#) for around \$2.59.



Finger Cymbals:

Musician's Friend has a set of finger cymbals for around \$5.50 for a pair. I've also seen costume places sell them for less although the sound won't be as good (probably fine for right now).

3. Melody instrument

If you have a **piano** or other pitched instrument, that would be just fine.

A **small glockenspiel** is relatively inexpensive. These are sometimes “baby toys” and that’s fine for what we will be doing. [Here is one](#) I found for around \$14 on Amazon.



Benefits of Music Education for Children

In a time when we are streamlining our children’s time on the computer, why take time for music class? Some believe that music is a “fluff” subject, but we now know the critical importance of music learning on brain development, emotional development, social learning and yes, creativity. Music classes help our children to learn about themselves and the world around them. But don’t take my word for it - here are some additional sources:

- [20 Important Benefits of Music in Our Schools](#) (NAfME)
- [Children and Music: Benefits of Music in Child Development](#) (Bright Horizons)
- [The Benefits of Music Education](#) (PBS)
- [7 Benefits of Music for Children While Growing Up](#) (Budsies.com)
- [The Amazing Benefits of Music for Kids](#) (Thrive Global)