

Teacher & Parent Lesson Plan: Music & Musical Instruments

Age range: 5–9 years

Theme: Sound, rhythm, creativity, expression

Story connection: The Musical Bugs love making sounds — a perfect way to introduce children to music in a playful, accessible way.

Learning Objectives

Children will:

- Explore basic musical concepts: loud/quiet, fast/slow, high/low.
 - Learn about different types of musical instruments.
 - Experiment with making sounds using their voices, bodies, and simple instruments.
 - Build confidence through creative expression and group music-making.
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1. Warm-Up: What Is Music?

Begin with a simple discussion:

Ask:

- “What sounds can we hear around us?”
- “Can music be made with your voice? Your hands? Everyday objects?”

Link to the story world:

- The Musical Bugs make sounds in the garden — buzzing, tapping, humming.

Children realise music is everywhere.

2. Body Percussion: Becoming the Instruments

Introduce the idea that *our bodies* can be instruments.

Try:

- Clapping
- Stomping
- Clicking fingers

- Patting knees
- Whispering / humming

Play simple call-and-response patterns.
This builds rhythm skills and confidence.

3. Exploring Real Instruments

Show or describe a small selection of basic instruments:

Percussion: tambourines, shakers, drums

Wind: recorders, whistles, kazoos

String: ukulele, guitar, harp (pictures are fine)

Talking prompts:

- “How do you make a sound with this?”
- “Is it loud or quiet?”
- “Does it make a long sound or a short one?”

Children can sort instruments into groups:

- Shake / tap / blow
 - Loud / soft
 - High / low
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4. Musical Bugs Sound Game

Inspired by your story:

Assign each bug a sound:

- Bumblebee → buzzing
- Ladybird → tapping
- Butterfly → soft fluttery sounds
- Beetle → low tapping or drumming

Call out a bug and children make the matching sound.
This is brilliant for imagination and listening skills.

5. Creative Task: Make Your Own Instrument

Children create a simple instrument using recycled materials.

Ideas:

- Shaker (rice + bottle)
- Drum (tin + balloon top)
- Guitar (box + elastic bands)

Encourage them to decorate it in a “Musical Bug” style.

6. Mini Band Time

Children play together using:

- Their homemade instruments
- Body percussion
- Voices

Start with simple patterns:

- Slow / fast
- Loud / quiet
- Everyone together / one group at a time

This builds teamwork and joy.

7. Reflection: How Did the Music Make You Feel?

Invite children to share:

- Their favourite sound
- How music makes them feel (happy, calm, excited)
- What instrument they’d like to try next

This supports emotional literacy and confidence.
