

Busy Bins for \$5 or less

Musical Mayhem

MATERIALS

- Small, non-breakable objects
- Rice, beans, or beads
- Glass jars of varying sizes, some with lids
- Various recycled containers (cardboard tubes, plastic tubs, metal coffee cans, etc)
- Rubber bands
- Metal spoons
- Wax paper, parchment paper, or latex balloons
- Safety scissors*
- Printable challenge cards available at: www.STEAMengineOKC.org/freebies#busybins

*Optional. Adult supervision recommended while using scissors

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather the materials.
- Encourage the child to explore the acoustic properties of each of the material by filling, shaking, and tapping.
- Encourage open-ended play.
- If more structure is needed, complete the challenges on the printable challenge cards.

Note: Some challenges may require adult supervision or participation.



CHALLENGE #1:

Drop small objects into a jar one-at-a-time. Notice the different sounds.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #2:

[ADULT: Have child close his/her eyes]

Identify the small objects by the sound made when dropped into a glass jar.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #3:

[ADULT: Fill glass jars with varying amounts of water.]

Using a metal spoon, tap on each jar. Notice the different sounds.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #4:

[ADULT: Fill glass jars with varying amounts of water.]

Arrange the jars by note, from lowest to highest.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.



CHALLENGE #5:

Make maracas from glass jars or metal cans, and beads. Shake it!

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #6:

[ADULT: Using the maracas, shake to a beat and discuss rhythm.]

Match the pattern.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #7:

Make a drum from a recycled container.

[Use wax/parchment paper or a balloon as a "skin." Hold it in place with a rubber band]

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #8:

[ADULT: Using the drum, tap out a beat and discuss rhythm.]

Match the pattern.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #9:

Make up a new instrument from the materials in the Busy Bin.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #10:

Make up a new instrument from other household objects.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #11:

Play a song with your instruments. Have someone guess the tune!

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

CHALLENGE #12:

Make up a new song using your instruments. Teach it to someone else.

© 2020 The STEAM Engine.

