

Musical Line

Age recommendation: 2 years up

Music making is a wonderful thing, and you will already have plenty of musical instruments in your kitchen cupboard!

For generations parents have let their children bang pots on the kitchen floor, but instead of the items sliding around on the floor, the Music Line creates clearer sounds, a better understanding of tonality, and a visual arrangement of the tone-making process.

It is a great demonstration of the science of sound, and introduces concepts around sound frequencies. It has the added bonus of getting the clanging and clanking outside the house.



What you need

- **Sturdy rope** (about 3-4 m)
- **Natural string**
- **Scissors**
- **Pots, pans and kitchen items** (they need handles or something to tie string to)
- **Spoons** (selection of wooden, plastic, metal – to use as beaters)

How to

1. Go into your back yard and select two anchor points a few metres apart – from a tree to a fence post for instance.
2. Tie the heavy rope between these two points at about your waist height. Make the line as tight as you can.
3. Lay out the pots and pans on the ground, arranging them in a line from smallest to largest.
4. Tie a length of string to each item, and hang them from the rope in the same order.
5. Go along the line and “tune” your instrument. Take a wooden spoon and start at one end striking each object to make sure that the lowest sound is at one end, and the highest sound at the other. Rearrange the items if necessary so the sounds form a rough musical “scale”.
6. Let the music making begin! Encourage the children to sing along with the notes and create songs.
7. To refresh the musical line, try re-hanging the objects in a “song” order – try a waiata or a nursery rhyme like “Mary had a little lamb”.
8. Shoot some video of your children playing their own music, so you can play it back to them when they are in the school orchestra, showing them where it all began!

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