

INSTRUMENTAL SKILLS

Exploring Boomwhackers

L.I. - To be able to explain and demonstrate how to play boomwhackers correctly. To be able to play a boomwhacker whilst following direction.

20 min

- ♪ Children will love playing with boomwhackers, but it is very important that classroom procedures are firmly established from the beginning, in order to avoid over-excitement and excessive noise!
- ♪ Seat the children in a circle.
- ♪ Start by outlining expectations and safety requirements. Nobody is to use the boomwhacker as a weapon etc.
- ♪ Demonstrate the boomwhacker. Try it on the floor, on the body. Which sounded best?
- ♪ Choose a 'rest position' signal, it could be a clap or a whistle, and explain that when the children hear the signal they must place their boomwhacker carefully onto the floor and fold their arms.
- ♪ When the boomwhackers are in the air, but not being played; this is called 'ready position' and shows that the children are ready to play.
- ♪ Distribute boomwhackers and let them have a few moments of experimentation, then practise your signal to see if the children respond appropriately. Agree a sanction for anyone who continues to play when they are supposed to be listening for example, one minute without a boomwhacker is usually enough of a deterrent.
- ♪ Once the children are confident in recognising the signal, try an echo game – the teacher should play a short rhythm and the children copy.
- ♪ If you wish to extend the exercise, try the 'Clapping Game Level 1' on boomwhackers. (See page 114).

RESOURCES

- ♪ Class set of boomwhackers.

TEACHER'S NOTES / Date

Assessment / Extension / Links

- ♪ You might like to print and laminate a set of boomwhacker conductor cards and use them to direct the class. Experiment with one or more colours at a time. Ask the class which colours sound good together?