

Dear Family, in class today we learned about percussion and how they make sound.

Did you know?

- A percussion instrument is anything you strike, shake or scrape to make sound.
- There are thousands of different percussion instruments from all over the world and in every culture on Earth.
- Some percussion you might find in an orchestra are timpani, triangle, and xylophone.

Ask your child:

- What are some of the instruments you learned about?
- Can you describe them? (big/small, material)
- How do they make sound?
- Can you show me how to play them?

Vocabulary:

- percussion: any instrument you strike, shake, or scrape to make sound
- strike: to hit (usually using a stick to hit the instrument; think drums or triangle)
- shake: to move back and forth quickly
- scrape: to drag one object across another (usually one object has a bumpy texture)

Activity:

- Look for objects in your house that could be used as percussion instruments. What can you find to strike, shake, or scrape to make sound? How can you make a percussion instrument from items you might find in your home (ex: rice or beads in food containers for maracas, empty oatmeal or coffee can for drums)?
- Create a percussion instrument for each member of the family and start a family band. Sing your favorite songs together while keeping the beat with your percussion instruments, or create a beat pattern together and then let each family member 'solo' on their instrument.