



Magic Bean Shakers

Traditional Tales

Jack and the Beanstalk



Resources

- Junk-modelling materials, such as plastic bottles, yoghurt pots, crisp tubes, small boxes
- Masking tape, glue or elastic bands
- Butter beans – uncooked (or use seeds/rice/split peas/lentils)
- A pre-made shaker

Aspect

2

Objective: To explore the sounds that instruments make.

Key Words: sound, soft, quiet, loud, noisy, crunchy, scratchy

Small Group Activity

10–15 minutes

Before the activity, make sure children are familiar with the story of [Jack and the Beanstalk](#). Make sure you have prepared a pre-made shaker to show the children.

1. **'We are going to make some magic bean shakers today. Here is one I made earlier.'** Show children your pre-made shaker and allow them to shake it.
2. Support children to create their own simple shakers out of junk-modelling materials and beans. **'What kind of sound do you think this is going to make?'**
3. Once the shakers are ready, encourage the children to play them. **'I can make this shaker louder by making bigger movements with it. I can make it quieter by... If I tap it, it makes this sound...'**
4. **'What sound does it make? Can you change the sound? Can you make the sound quieter? Can you make the sound louder?'**

Extension

5. Ask the children to compare their shakers and the sounds they can make. **'Whose shaker makes the loudest sound?'**

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Aspect 2: Instrumental Sounds

Strands covered:

- Tuning into instrumental sounds
- Listening and remembering instrumental sounds
- Talking about instrumental sounds

Enhancements

- Provide the materials for the children to independently explore, making shakers of different shapes and sizes and seeing what happens when they change what they put inside.
- Put some shakers, e.g. rainmakers or maracas, in a music area for children to explore.

Look, Listen, Note

How well can the children...?

- explore the sounds an instrument makes
- follow instructions to make a sound using an instrument
- show an awareness of how acting upon an instrument affects the sound it makes

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