



3 mins

Objective and Musical Focus

Pitch.

Instruments?

Yes, tuned percussion or two instruments with notably different pitches.

1. Warm up Activity

Have you brought your voices?

This is a call-and-response game to prepare your class for the main activity. Start by asking the class: 'Have you brought your talking voices?'

Encourage the children to respond: 'Yes, we've brought our talking voices'. Repeat this call and response with different types of voices, mimicking the quality of each:

- your talking voices
- your squeaking voices
- your grumpy voices
- your happy voices
- your sad voices

End the activity with: 'Have your brought your singing voices', set to any melody you're comfortable with.

2. Song: *Bass Face*

Watch the *Bass Face* episode of *YolanDa's Band Jam*.

Follow along with the song and when the vocals or saxophone play high notes get the children to stand up tall with their hands in the air.

When the vocals and instruments are playing low notes get the class to crouch down. Can they make a 'Bass Face' when they are crouched down low?



3 mins





5 mins



3. A Tale of Two Kittens

Using a glockenspiel or xylophone held vertically (in order to visually show the lower and higher pitches), make up a story about two cats – use puppets or toys if you have them. The older kitten is teaching the little kitten to climb trees. An example story is below.

It was the middle of summertime. Kitty the cat lived with her owners Sally and Sam in a little house near the park. Kitty loved climbing trees particularly the old oak tree in the park which was full of acorns in the autumn.

She loved to climb higher and higher and higher until she eventually reached the top.

(As you tell the story demonstrate getting higher and higher with the xylophone.)

From the top of the tree she could see for miles and miles.

(Keep repeating the highest note of the xylophone to reinforce the top of the tree.)

Kitty loved looking out and seeing the whole world below her! In the distance she could even see her home where she lived with Sally and Sam.

She could hear them calling to her for tea, so she quickly and carefully climbed down the tree getting lower and lower and lower until she finally reached the lowest branch right at the bottom.

(As you tell this part of the story demonstrate getting lower and lower with the xylophone.)

One bright sunny morning, as Kitty was setting off to climb her favourite tree she found a tiny kitten sitting sadly at the bottom.

The kitten's name was Tom and he was sad because he was too scared to climb to the top. Kitty offered to teach Tom and show him what to do.



The tiny kitten started climbing up the tree nervously and slowly, sometimes stumbling and slipping down to the bottom. He kept trying and trying and eventually made it to the top.

(As you tell the story, demonstrate on the tuned percussion, the pitch getting higher as he climbs up the tree and lower as he slips down the tree.)

Tom and Kitty looked out far in to the distance and felt very pleased and happy.

Just then they heard Sally and Sam calling so Kitty set off down the tree, quickly and confidently, followed by Tom slowly and cautiously, sometimes slipping and stumbling, until he finally reached the bottom.

(Demonstrate on the xylophone sometimes by 'stepping down' one note at a time and sometimes by 'slipping down' several notes at once.)

Tom practised climbing every day and found the more he climbed, the better he got at it!



As you tell the story, keep reinforcing the vocabulary 'higher' and 'lower' rather than 'up' and 'down'.





5 mins



4. Pretend to be a Cat!

Sit the class in a circle and say or sing the following words while playing a scale on the xylophone/glockenspiel/etc. you were using in the previous exercise.

Tom is climbing up the oak tree

A scale is a set of musical notes ordered by pitch. Your xylophone or glockenspiel will have its notes in the C scale (CDEFGABC). Play in ascending order with each word in the sentence, demonstrating that the pitch is getting higher.

Now, let's play a descending scale. Say or sing the following words accompanied with playing a lower pitch with each word on your instrument:

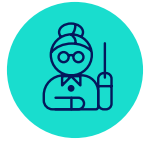
Tom is climbing down the oak tree

As before, play this descending scale (CBAGFEDC) in time with each word showing the pitch getting lower through movement.

Invite the children to imagine they are cats about to climb a tree. They crouch down low at the imaginary bottom of the tree and gradually 'climb' by standing up while you play an ascending scale and saying the words.

Then they climb back down the tree by crouching down along with the descending scale song.

Can the children respond to the music alone played on your instrument (i.e. without the words)?



10 mins

5. Your Cat Story

Work with the class to make up your own story about Kitty and Tom climbing up and down, and play along with it.

When does the pitch of the instrument get higher or lower in the story?



2 mins

6. Ending the Session

To bring the session to a close, sing the following to the tune of *Hot Cross Buns*:

Time to stop
Time to stop
Music time has ended now it's
Time to stop

Repeat a few times until the class has settled or are joining in with you.

7. Troubleshooting

The children may need visual prompts for longer than you might expect before they are able to confidently recognise the pitch going higher and lower.

It can be useful to have the tuned percussion vertically at first in order for children to visualise and actually see the shorter bars are at the top (ie higher sounds) and the longer bars at the bottom (lower sounds).