



## Natural Orchestra

Engage your child to discover their musical sense by experimenting with sounds made from items found in nature.

### Materials

- Small pieces of wood, sticks, stones, dry branches, small branches, cones, blades of grass, reed, hay, etc.
- Environmental Safety: Ask participants to suggest what kinds of materials may be appropriate or not appropriate to gather from an environmental point of view. For example, you want to avoid breaking live materials and disrupting small habitats. Also, you should use only materials lying on the ground or ones that regenerate easily (e.g., grass).



### Procedure

Help your child find musical instruments in the woods or in the backyard. It should make a characteristic sound and it has to be made only from natural substances (e.g. you can clap with sticks or stones, crackle with dry grass or cones, blow in blades of grass, etc.). How does the sound change with each item's size and shape? Challenge your child to make music using one or more natural "instruments."

### Extensions

For groups, place children into small teams. Have each child introduce his/her own musical instrument and its sounds. Select a conductor and arrange instruments on a platform into groups according to instrument type (drums, brass section, first/second violin, string instruments, accompaniment, etc.). Then, have the children form their own small orchestras and learn one piece of music. Have each group play their song to the other groups, so the other groups can try to guess which song is being played.