



Respecting Musical Instruments

At Rock and Roll Daycare, we pride ourselves on fostering each child's creative education through the integration of high-quality musical instruments in the classroom. These instruments are often fragile, expensive, and easily damaged. By modeling appropriate instrument care and redirecting careless child behaviors, we can ensure that children have access to beautiful instruments year-round and develop good habits to maintain the materials in their environment.

Bells – Pick up each bell from the button on the top and support it from the base on the bottom. Avoid pressing down on the bell and sliding it forward, this can dislodge the metal from the plastic base. When carrying multiple bells use a tray, never model carrying more than two at a time.

Ukuleles – Pick up/put down the instrument with two hands, one supporting the neck and one supporting the body. Never hold a stringed instrument by its strings. If a child is on the floor and wants to stand up, they should stand up on their own and then pick up the instrument, not use the instrument to support their weight.

Drums – Drums can be used with hands or instrument-appropriate mallets. Never use an improvised tool or work as a drum stick, it may damage the drum head. When drumming, be mindful of the volume you generate inside classroom spaces.

Pianos/Keyboards – Toy piano keys can be especially fragile and may lose their ability to make sound if they're hit too hard. Encourage gentle playing with fingertips, not banging with hands.

Recorders/harmonicas – For health reasons, we typically do not equip classrooms with any instrument played with the mouth. If you facilitate supervised play time with a recorder or harmonica, please be attentive to disinfecting the mouthpiece before it goes to another child.

Shakers/Hand Percussion – Model care of instruments with our youngest students. Avoid throwing or sliding shakers across the space: instead, model passing the instruments from hand to hand.

Encourage young students to be gentle as they collect instruments in music classes

Keep instruments away from art supplies, food, and water.

If an instrument breaks or is significantly damaged take time during your circle to address it with the group and remove the instrument from the shelves. Model noticing the damage or break and how disappointed you are that the class won't be able to enjoy using the material. Avoid laying blame on one individual student and take the opportunity to refresh the entire class on how to handle instruments in the room.

When a broken instrument is repaired or replaced, reintroduce expectations for how instruments are handled, and continue to redirect children's use during the day as needed.