

TAIKO

DRUMMING

ACTIVITY PACK

includes

**Drumming Patterns to Practice
&
Other Activities**

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RHYTHMS AND SKILLS

Here are some of the rhythms and skills we have been working on since September in our Taiko Drumming sessions. Practice getting your Right Hand (R) and Left Hand (L) the correct way round in the rhythms.

- ❖ You can practice the rhythms using your hands to tap your legs or knees.
- ❖ If you have access to a drum at home you may be able to practice on that.
- ❖ Otherwise you can try and be creative, for example:
 - Is there a plastic plant pot or washing up bowl that you could turn upside down to use, or put a cushion on a stool?
 - Perhaps you can use some wooden spoons as Bachi or a couple of pencils, using the end with a rubber on to bounce off your 'drum'.

ALWAYS ask permission from a parents/guardian before using such items.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS OF HOW TO LEARN AND EXPLORE THE RHYTHMS

- Practice the Rhythm Patterns getting your Right Hand and Left Hand correct.
- Decide how many times to repeat a rhythm before you play.
- Try playing the rhythms faster and slower.
- Make an Audio Recording of yourself playing a rhythm. Then play it back and try playing another rhythm over the top eg "Don Ka". Can you play in time with your recording?
- Perhaps you could teach someone in your family how to play a rhythm and explore ways to 'structure' or organise the patterns (like we do in school). Be creative.
- Make up your own rhythms. Teach them to someone.
- Pick a rhyme or lyrics to a song and make up your own 'sticking' patterns (eg Left, Right, Right, Left etc). Explore using the Middle of the 'drum', the Side of the 'drum', and Clicking the Sticks together. Does your 'drum' sound different if you hit it in different places? How can you use this in your creation?

THE MUFFIN MAN

R L R R L R L
Do you know the muffin man,

R L R L
The muffin man,

R L R L (Shout and raise up arms)
The muffin man, "HEY"

R L R R L R L
Do you know the muffin man,

R L R L
The muffin man,

R L R L
The muffin man.

(Play this 2 times to make the pattern complete)

"A" RHYTHM

R (Shout and raise arms) R L R
Don "A" 3 BIG BEATS

R L R L R L R L
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

(Play this 4 times to make the pattern complete)

"B" RHYTHM

R L R
Ba - ba - ba,

R L R L
Ba - ba - baran

R L R
Ba - ba - ba,

R L R L
Ba - ba - baran

R L R
Ba - ba - ba,

R L R L
Ba - ba - baran

R L R L R L R L
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

(Play this 2 times to make the pattern complete)

CIRCLE SOLOS

Beat: R L R L
Don Don Don Don

Wait: **1 2 3 4**

(Make up your own solos in the 'Wait' section)
(Try to do something a little different each time)

DONGO or "One Potato Two Potato"

R R R R
Don Don Don Don

R L R L R L R L
Dongo Dongo Dongo Dongo

(Repeat this several times)

..... or say it the way we learnt it at school.....

R R R R
Don Don Don Don

R L R L R L R L
One Pot- at-o, Two Pot- at-o.

(Keep repeating this until it becomes easy to keep it steady)

DONGO.....CHALLENGE YOURSELF....

R R R R
Don Don Don Don

R L R L R L R L
One Pot- at-o, Two Pot- at-o,

R L R L R L R L
Three Pot- at-o, Four Pot-at-o.

(Repeat this several times)

1 2 3 4 WAIT

	R	L	R	L
Beat:	Don	Don	Don	Don
Wait:	1	2	3	4

(Keep counting in time while you wait)

1 2 3 4 POINT

	R	L	R	L
Beat:	Don	Don	Don	Don
Point:	1	2	3	4

(Point with your arms out straight, keep still for the 4 counts, and try to keep your eyes staring at one person or part of the room)

1 2 3 4 POSE

	R	L	R	L
Beat:	Don	Don	Don	Don
Wait:	1	2	3	4

(Try different poses each time, but keep them strong and still and count for 4 beats)

1 2 3 4 MOVE

	R	L	R	L
Beat:	Don	Don	Don	Don
Wait:	1	2	3	4

(Try creative ways to move around during the 4 counts and end up back at your 'drum')

CORRECT STICKING TECHNIQUE

We have learnt this in stages. To practice this at home you will need an object (or two objects) that is/are similar in size and shape to the bachi (sticks) we use at school.

Count: 1 2 3 4

Stage 1: Up, Elbow, Down, Wait

Stage 2: Up, Elbow, Down & Slant, Wait

Stage 3 Up, Elbow, Down & Slant, Bounce & Catch

Stage 4 "Stage 3" Bring-your-arm-slowly - up - to - the - sky

(Remember to try this on the Left Hand as well as the Right Hand)

MA 'Tension in Space and Time'.

- Slowly raise your arm.
- Keep your arm straight and your bachi pointing out.
- Point your 'bachi' out like an extension of your arm.
- 'Hold' your arm up in the air - feeling strong and in control.
- Then play a beat (hit your 'drum') with control and purpose.

Extension Skill: Switch between your Right and Left arms - to build up strength and control in both arms.

Extension Skill: Practice developing the correct 'sticking' technique as you bring your arm and bachi down and hit the 'drum'.

FAVOURITE FOODS

R L ? ? ? ??
I **Like** ??????????????????

For example:

R L R L R
I **Like** **Cheesy** **Chips**

R L R L
I **Like** **Cho - late**

R L R L R
I **Like** **Cho-co-** **- late**

- Think of different foods, say them out loud and work out how the words will fit into the beats.
- Work out a good 'sticking' pattern of Rights and Lefts to make them sound good.
- Try easy and difficult words.

SPEAKING JAPANESE CHALLENGE.

Learn to count in Japanese from 1 to 10

There are different ways to pronounce Japanese numbers. Here is one example of how to say the numbers.

1	ichi	いち
2	ni	に
3	san	さん
4	shi	よん/し
5	go	ご
6	roku	ろく
7	shichi	しち
8	hachi	はち
9	ku	く
10	juu	じゅう

Write out the numbers using the Japanese Symbols.

Perhaps you can create a poster using bold shapes and colours.

Be the Teacher

When you have learnt how to say the numbers, try teaching them to members of your family.

LEARN ABOUT TAIKO DRUMS

**Find Pictures of the following types of Taiko Drum.
Draw them and colour them in.**

- **Pipe Drum** (the one you use at school)
- **Nagado** (this is the professional version of the pipe drum)
- **Shime**
- **Okedo**

RESEARCH THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:

What does 'Taiko' mean in Japanese? _____

What are the drum sticks called? _____

Who invented Taiko Drumming? _____

What year was Taiko Drumming invented? _____

WATCH PROFESSIONAL TAKIO PERFORMANCES

Search the internet (with a parent or guardian's permission) for professional Taiko performances. For each one you watch write down a few words to describe what you saw, heard, felt, enjoyed or did not enjoy.

TWO PICTURES TO COLOUR IN

