



#### 4. Instruments: Learning to Listen Musical Sounds

Hi, it's Amy McConkey Robbins again, and in this Lesson 4, we'll be focusing on Instruments and the Learning-to-Listen Musical Sounds. Those of you who work within the LSL approach know of the Learning to Listen Sounds we use with children who are just beginning to access sound and attach meaning to the sounds they hear. It's called sound-object association. With very young children these sounds are paired with toys such as vehicles or animals, as well as other action sounds and common phrases. The website of the Hearing First Organization has a treasure trove of information on all facets of language development. Their rationale for incorporating Learning-to-Listen Sounds into practice can be found in the supplemental resources section of AudiTunes. I hope you'll take advantage of the references that Chris Barton and I have provided there.

Well, why do we use Learning-to-Listen Sounds? In a nutshell:

- They encourage children to attend to sounds.
- They help children learn to recognize that sounds can be the same or different from one another (auditory discrimination).
- They help children learn that different sounds have different meaning.
- They allow children to experiment **producing** different sounds.
- They facilitate the development of communication attention.

Based on this rationale, Chris and I have created our own Learning-to-Listen Musical Sounds. They are based on the first instruments we present to very young children, and expand as the child's listening and motor skills progress.

We might use, "Shake, shake, shake" for a shaker. "Boom, boom, boom" for a drum. And "CRASH!" For the cymbals.

We could have these instruments on a table and, through audition alone, say either "shake, shake, shake" or "boom, boom, boom" to see if the child looks at or reaches for the correct corresponding instrument. This would establish exciting evidence of the development of sound-object association.

Until next time, remember: *Do Music. REAL Music. Every day!*