

# imagination hub: sensory play

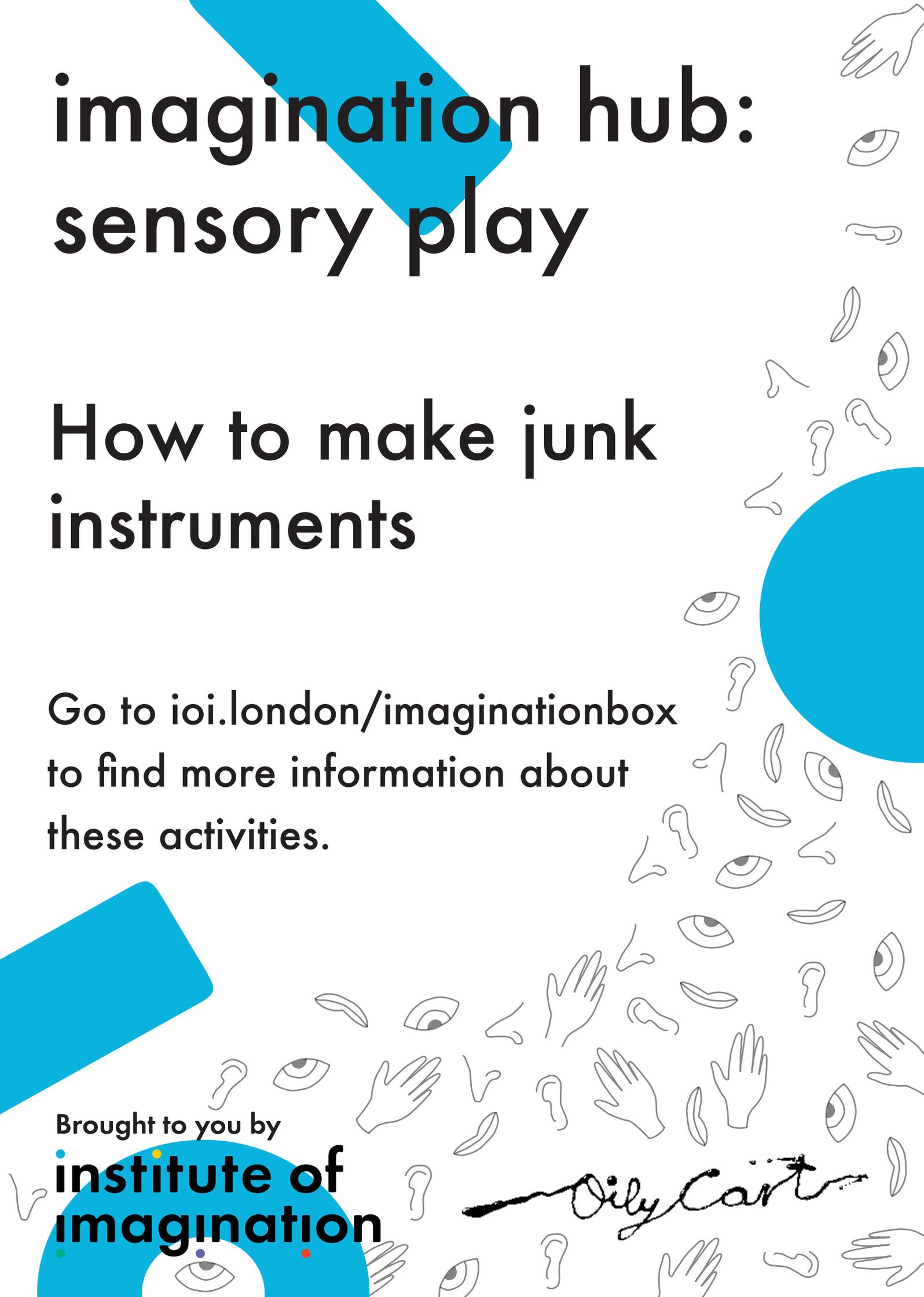
## How to make junk instruments

Go to [ioi.london/imaginationbox](http://ioi.london/imaginationbox)  
to find more information about  
these activities.

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# let's make junk instruments

You can use anything to make junk instruments, but these objects are particularly handy:

- Masking or packing tape
- Elastic bands or a hair bobble
- Jam jar lids
- Ice lolly sticks
- Large plastic bottles
- Scissors or a small cutting knife
- Lentils or rice
- Baking paper
- Pringles tubes, boxes or tubs
- An opened tin with the edges safely covered in masking tape

## how to make junk instruments

There is no right or wrong way to make your instruments. Just get creative and enjoy exploring sounds together! It's good to start with a sound you like and build an instrument from there.

Find ways to make the process fun. For example you can start by exploring sounds in your home. You can grab an old pen or a wooden spoon to tap and test how things sound. Try things with different shapes and materials.

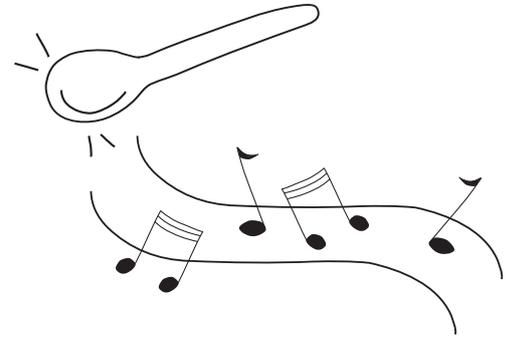
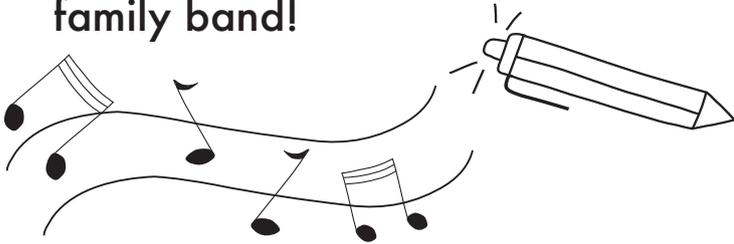
You can use paint, beads and colourful tape to decorate your instruments as much as you like.



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Using mobile phones to record, get members of the family to collect 10 sounds from inside or outside the house. Then ask them to playback the sounds one by one and see if anyone can recognise them.

When you have your instruments, try putting on some music you like, or a few pieces that have different styles, and play along together as a family band!



## ideas for junk instruments

If you're struggling to find ideas for an instrument, you can look for two basic elements: a sound source or trigger, and a resonator or amplifier. Here are some examples:

Sound source:  
Rubber bands  
vibrate when  
plucked.



Resonator:  
The box takes on  
these vibrations,  
and makes them  
easier to hear.

Sound source:  
Blowing across the  
top of the bottle  
causes the air to  
vibrate.



Resonator:  
The amount of  
vibrating air trapped  
in the bottle will affect  
the pitch of the note.



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## ideas for sound sources



Rubber bands



Old pens



Wooden spoons



Rulers (springs)

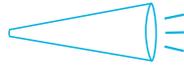


Biro tops (whistles)

## ideas for resonators



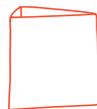
Cardboard boxes



Rolled up paper cone



Plastic, like food containers



Folders



Cardboard tubes

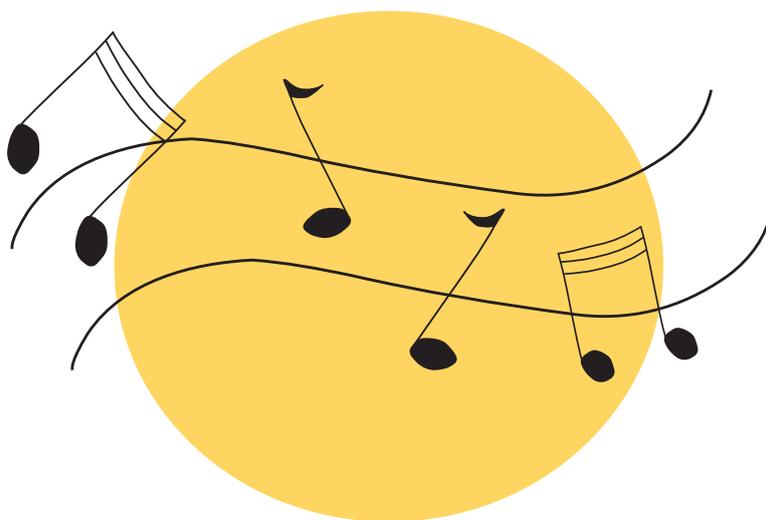
# experiment challenges

- You can blindfold someone in your family to play a sound game, where they guess which instrument is being played.
- It's interesting to explore putting the sound close and quiet to the person's ear, move it all around their head slowly, and then get louder as you get further away. You could call this a 'sound bath' as if you do this very sensitively, it can make someone feel really relaxed.
- You could try playing the instruments in a band together where you are all blindfolded or have your eyes shut, so you only using your ears to guide you, and really listen to each other to see how it changes it.



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- For band members who are D/deaf or hearing impaired you can focus on how the instruments feel, especially with the instruments using elastic bands. See if you can make nice vibrations with them to feel.
- You can also make vibrations using your voice. Try putting the back of someone's hand under your chin as you make a humming sound!
- Click Piece: Try to play all together only using the shortest sounds you can manage.
- Long Piece: Then try to play together using only long sounds.
- Sound Story: map out the words of a familiar story onto your instruments. Can you play the rhythms of the words?
- Soundtrack: can you make a soundtrack to your favourite book, film or tv show with your instruments?



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