



Drum Cues

Musical cues are a great tool for gaining children's focus and attention. They signal to children that it's time to shift to something else *and* help them stay on task during the transition.

Using an actual drum, if possible,

- Use a fun, fast, or slow rhythm to let children know that it's time to transition.
- Then switch to keeping a gentle, steady, or rhythmic beat. Prompt them to listen and move along to the music as they clean, walk, line up, or any transition activity.
- As the transition ends, ask them to finish, sit, get to the line by the time the drumming stops.

Drums are the oldest instrument. They are a popular instrument around the world, across cultures, and throughout history. As you select a drum, take the opportunity to explore the many types and their backgrounds with children. For example, "Kwame Loves the African Drums" Written and Illustrated by Namibia El or "Drum Dream Girl" written by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Rafael López.