

FIXER UPPER

HOME ACTIVITIES



Little ones learn so much by working alongside mom, dad and other family members. Enjoy these playful ways to get your kiddos involved around the house, while also checking a few “To Do’s” off your list!

ALL TOOLS ON DECK!

GET STARTED: Make a Toolbelt

Every Fixer Upper needs their tools on hand. Kick off your week with this fun toolbelt craft. Show your child different tools around the house. Discuss what materials they are made of and how they feel. Let your little one touch and feel any tools that can be safely handled with parent supervision.



Tap the icon to view the step-by-step toolbelt craft video!

What you'll need:



Glue
or
needle
and thread



Dish towel
or piece of
sturdy fabric

What you'll do:

1

Fold the dish towel, leaving some space at the top. Cut a loop of ribbon and tuck it under the fold to make a handy hammer loop.



2

Glue or sew the two open sides, being sure to catch the ribbon loop. Then glue or sew three pockets.

3

Glue or sew the ribbon across the top.

You're ready! Tie the toolbelt around your waist and get to work.



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Once the toolbelt is complete and filled with the necessary items, your child can create a supply station for your cleaning and fixer-upper projects (and the perfect place to keep the toolbelt).



MAKE A SUPPLY STATION

SING ALONG: “Build Myself A House”

Start up your music and get to work! Find a variety of boxes in different sizes and decorate them with shelf paper or wrapping paper—or even have your child paint them. Locate a special area where your child can stack the boxes. Together, decide what supplies to stock in each box, according to the fixing and cleaning projects you plan to tackle.



Tap the icon to listen to Kindermusik’s “Build Myself a House.”

Child-Safe Supply Ideas:

Rags	Toy Tools	Paper Scraps
Sponges	Fine Sandpaper	Stamps & Pad
Bucket	Fasteners	Graph Paper
Spray Bottle	Washable Paints	Yarn
Broom	Brushes	Gluesticks
Dust Pan	Ruler	Popsicle Sticks
Mop	Non-toxic Cleaner	Toolbelt



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Now choose your first project to tackle together. No matter what you choose to do, the jazzy sounds of the song **“Housecleaning Blues”** will make everyone feel like stretching the work out longer!



GET JAZZY WITH IT!

While you're at it, explore these cool tool sounds!



A hammer goes:
Tap, tap, tap-tap-tap.

We can make that sound, too. We can go:
Tap, tap, tap-tap-tap.



A saw goes:
See-saw-see! See-saw-see!

We can make that sound, too. We can go:
See-saw-see! See-saw-see!



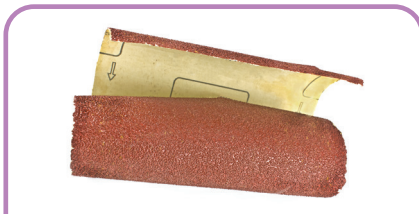
A ratchet goes:
Click, click, click.

We can make that sound, too. We can go:
Click, click, click.



A drill goes:
Brrrt. Brrrt. Brrrt. Brrrrrrrrrrrr!

We can make that sound, too. We can go:
Brrrt. Brrrt. Brrrt. Brrrrrrrrrrrr!



Sandpaper goes:
Scrit-scrit-scrit-scrit.

We can make that sound, too. We can go:
Scrit-scrit-scrit-scrit.



An axe goes:
FOOOOMP!

We can make that sound, too. We can go:
FOOOOMP!



INTEGRATIVE LEARNING

The brain doesn't work in strict subject categories; it just wants to grow, grow, grow. Music activities are ideal examples of integrative learning, since they criss-cross so beautifully through:

- steady beat
- pattern recognition
- sequencing and counting
- fine-motor skills
- gross-motor coordination
- social/emotional skills
- focused listening
- visual acuity
- memory & more!

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Lots of work (and play) can make little ones grow tired and grumpy. It's natural for frustration and boredom to be intermixed with all the joyful moments of the day. Music can help soothe emotions and prepare children for bedtime.



Tap the icon to listen to Kindermusik's "Home Sweet Home."

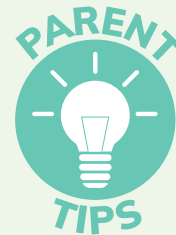
WIND DOWN: "Home Sweet Home"

At the end of the day, there really is no place better to be than with family. As Dorothy says in *The Wizard of Oz*, "There's no place like home." To remind everyone of this, as you wind down from your day, play the song "Home Sweet Home." No doubt it will soon become a new family routine. It will definitely build a lasting memory for your child.



We'd love to see your "home improvement" projects! Take a photo of your toolbelt, supply area or fun household activity and post it to your favorite social media site. Be sure to tag @Kindermusik!

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS



HOW TO CALM AN UPSET CHILD WITH MUSIC

For children, music can help instill calm, promote self-regulation and impart joy. This is great news for parents, who are so intimately familiar with how quickly and unpredictably kids can "lose it." Finding effective strategies to calm and comfort can be a challenge, and music is a good one to have in your arsenal. Get some tools for managing meltdowns at the Minds on Music blog.

[READ THE BLOG >>](#)