**Kid’s Accordion**

The accordion has its roots in ancient China, but the instrument as we know it was developed in Germany and Austria in the first half of the 19th century. The accordion spread very quickly around the globe and is a mainstay of Cajun and Zydeco bands of the southern United States, polka bands of central Europe and tango orchestras of Argentina.

Your accordion is a “button” accordion. Each of the 7 buttons provides 2 different notes - one note when pulling air and another when pushing air. To make the air flow, you either push your hands together (compressing the bellows) or pull them apart (expanding the bellows). To play a C major scale, press the number indicated, pushing when the number is not circled and pulling when the number is circled:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
C D E F G A B
c d e f g a b

**Blues Band Harmonica**

The harmonica is a wind instrument used primarily in blues, American folk music, jazz, rock and country music. Developed in Europe in the early part of the 19th century and appearing in the United States, South America and the UK at approximately the same time, by the end of the century harmonica production was big business.

Like the accordion, the harmonica plays one note when you blow into the hole and another note when you inhale and draw air from the hole. Holding the harmonica so the numbers are facing you, and using the hole indicated, blow when the number is not circled and draw (inhale) when the number is circled. The notes inside the box make up a C Major scale:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
C D E F G A B C D E F G A

c d e f g a b c d e f g a

**Mini Chimalong**

The Mini Chimalong is a metallophone, which means literally, “sounds of metal.” Metallophones are similar to xylophones, except instead of wood bars you make music by striking tuned metal bars or rods. The Mini Chimalong has 8 metal tubes tuned to a C Major scale. Its 2-sided songbook shows words and music on the side facing the instrument and repeats the words on the side facing the audience. This makes it easy for friends to sing along, as they can see the words to the song the musician is playing.

Each of the 8 metal tubes on the Mini Chimalong has a number and a color associated with it. This is paired with colored dots with numbers in them in the musical notation – one colored dot/number for each note of the song. Smaller children can learn to tap the tube with the same color as the dot, older children can play by matching the numbers.

**Woodstock Ukulele**

The predecessor to the ukulele was a Portuguese, guitar-like instrument called the *braguinha*, which was introduced to Hawaii in 1879. The ukulele as we know it soon became very popular with the Hawaiian people and in the 1920’s and 30’s a Hawaiian music craze swept the country. The ukulele remains a favorite today because it is lightweight and portable, easy to play, and has an appealing sound that lends itself to many styles of music.

Hold the ukulele as you would a guitar. To read the chord drawings, imagine each vertical line is one of the ukulele’s strings. The line on the left is the top string, the line on the right is the bottom string, and so on. The horizontal lines represent the ukulele frets and the numbered dots show where to (gently) hold the string down and which finger (your pointer finger is number 1, middle finger is number 2, and so on) to use. Strings with a circle instead of a dot should be left open (unfingered). So, to play a C chord, hold the bottom string in between the third and fourth frets using your ring finger and strum the ukulele. Now try the G7 and F chords. Put it all together and you can play “Oh Susannah.” It may seem awkward at first, but with a little practice you’ll be strumming like crazy!

**Mini Tambourine**

Found in many forms of music, including gospel, rock, classical and Italian folk music, tambourines come in many shapes and sizes, with the most common shape being circular. An untuned percussion instrument, the tambourine is used to maintain rhythm and contribute to the overall sound of a musical piece.

The Mini Tambourine can be played in many ways; each method has its own distinct sound. Hold it in the air and shake it by rotating your arm. Shake it back and forth to the beat of the music and strike it with the fist of your free hand on the off beats. Another option is to hold it vertically and strike your open hand on the edge of the rim to produce a sharp accent.

**JingleBand**

Your JingleBand consists of 4 sleigh bells attached to a colorful cloth band. During the Roman Empire, sleigh bells were mounted on the reins of a Knight’s horse to indicate wealth as well as for decoration and show. A good luck charm, these bells quickly became a warning signal to other drivers and pedestrians that a sleigh was near.

Hold your JingleBand in your hand or attach it around your wrist; it can be played many ways. Hold it in the air and shake it. Tap rhythms by holding it in one hand and hitting the fist of that hand with your other fist. You can also imitate a horse and sleigh by tapping the JingleBand at a speed that reminds you of a sleigh ride.