

# Playing the Pitch

Experience the highs and lows of music!

Music  
Activities  
for  
Year F-2

**Materials:** 3-5 drinking glasses with different levels of water OR 3-5 different sized plastic containers with the lids on, a teaspoon or chop sticks to use as drum sticks.

**Time:** 30 minutes

Find more resources at [artslive.com](https://www.artslive.com)



## Watch

Watch the video [Elements of Music – Pitch](#) on ARTS:LIVE.

Sounds are all arounds us. Some are high and some are low sounds. In music, when we talk about how high or low sounds are, we are talking about the “pitch”. Songs that we know are made up of higher and lower pitches.

Sing one of the songs from last week – Old McDonald, Where is Thumbkin? or the Ants Go Marching and think about when the song goes up to high notes and down to low notes.

## Make

Ask an adult if you can use some old drinking glasses or empty glass jars, and experiment with the different sounds they make by gently hitting them with a teaspoon or chopsticks. Be careful not to hit them too hard!

What do you notice about the sounds they make? Are they low or high?



# Playing the Pitch

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**Materials:** 3 -5 drinking glasses with different levels of water OR 3 -5 different sized plastic containers with the lids on, a teaspoon or chop sticks to use as drum sticks.

**Time:** 1 hour

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## Try

Start adding different amounts of water to the glasses or jars. Gently hit the glasses with a teaspoon or chopsticks. Find one glass with a high sound, a second glass with a low sound, and a third glass with a sound that is in the middle.

Adding and taking away water in the glasses or jars changes the pitch.

## Play

Now that you have three glasses, one with a high pitch, one with a low pitch and one in between, you can start to accompany some songs.

These three sounds are all you need to sing "Hot Cross Buns".

With Old McDonald, you can play them on the "E-I-E-I-O" bit with "high, high middle, middle, low". Experiment with different ways to play along with these songs – you might like to add more glasses/containers in to make even more sounds.

## Move

Ask someone who is at home with you to play this game. Ask them to play the high, middle, low sounds in an order (e.g. high, high, low, low, middle) and show with your body what you heard. Stretch up on your toes for the high notes. Bob down on the ground for the low notes. Stand with your hands on your hips for the middle note. Change places and you now play the sounds in a different order. See how long before one of you gets tricked!