



Congratulations on your child's interest in learning to play a musical instrument!

This information has been developed to assist you make the right decisions when purchasing a quality instrument.

What initial equipment does a beginner Percussion Student need?

The following information is shared with an understanding that we are intent on providing you and your child with the best information and experience as possible.

- As with any purchase, "You get what you pay for", so we will endeavour to provide you with the most appropriate advice for your individual child and personal circumstances.
- All beginner percussion and drum set students learn snare drum techniques and rhythmic aural and written literacy at a rate appropriate to them. Percussion students will also learn mallet (keyboard) techniques, drum set students will learn specific drum set coordination techniques and exercises.

- A beginner student is able to cope with a pair of drum sticks and a practice pad for the first 6 months of learning, although this is not desirable and eventually you will need to provide an appropriate instrument for your child to practice on properly at home.
- Sticks and practice pads are easily sourced from most music retailers.
- All percussion students will need to purchase their own mallets and timpani mallets at some point, as they progress through their secondary education pathway.

A template of a mallet instrument can be created and coordination exercises can be executed without requiring a drum set which will suffice until you are able to contact your child's teacher to source your own instrument.

Your child's teacher will advise you when your child needs to access their own instrument at home in order to progress appropriately if you have not done so by mid-year.

Purchasing a musical instrument

A guide for first time buyers

**PERCUSSION/
DRUM SET**



When your child's teacher informs you it is time to access their own instrument at home, there are some important things to consider:

- There are many different models of snare drums, drum sets and mallet instruments available, ranging from student to professional.
- Mallet instruments range from glockenspiels, only costing a couple of hundred dollars through to marimbas costing thousands of dollars. Equally, drum sets can also be purchased second hand for a few hundred dollars, through to professional sets which can be worth thousands.
- Drum sets are easily sourced in Perth, mallet instruments are often purchased via the internet for the fastest and most affordable outcome.

In order to navigate this complex path, consulting with your child's teacher is the fastest and safest option.

What to look for in a quality percussion instrument

- When purchasing a second-hand instrument look for reputable makes and models.
- Most second-hand instruments will need to be serviced prior to use, particularly if drums need new heads (the part you hit) so include this when negotiating a price.
- There is an incredibly wide range of brands and models available, and prices vary greatly. In order for you to avoid a regretful purchase, please, always wait until you can consult with your child's teacher.

Whilst this may not always be possible at the information evening, there is the option to contact IMSS directly by emailing the percussion program coordinator.

Always contact your child's percussion or drum set teacher to get the most appropriate advice for you and your child. Every school and program is different, just as your child is unique.



The information in this guide has been prepared by Instrumental Music School Services to assist in purchasing a musical instrument for your child. No recommendations are made for a particular supplier or brand of instrument.

Instrumental Music School Services
150 Guildford Road
Maylands WA 6051
T: 9338 9500
W: <http://det.wa.edu.au/imss>