

Stella (Animal print tabards)

Environment Coir bowls, wooden bowls holding barley seeds. Broom handles, tambours, shakers, wood xylophone. Round hut - bamboo fencing, painted soundboards, tiger rug, figure statuettes. Magic clay, wooden plates. Mbiras and ballaphone. Jelly babies.



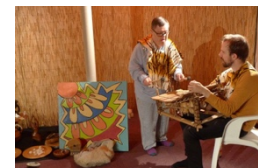
Working in the fields Bowls of barley wait to be pounded and ground into flour. Take the broom handles and begin work rhythms as you sing, using the sticks to 'thud' in bowls, lift up and down, grind round and round, holding together as you push and pull. Feel, pour and listen to the seeds as they roll in bowls/tambours and are poured from one to another. Add the xylophone and shakers to enhance the rhythms.



Clay and Mbiras Return home to the round hut where Magic clay awaits to be rolled, squeezed, stretched, molded into weird and wonderful shapes. Enjoy the texture, create your own sculptures, then listen to and play the mbiras - the gentle relaxing sound of Zimbabwe.



Sheep comes out to say hello. Feel her fur, stroke and pet her, put your fingers in her mouth, she won't hurt you! Play games with her and if you're lucky she will bring you a sweet from her own mouth. Be brave.



Observations Rhythmic work is always popular. Advise do standing up activities before the groups settle into sitting positions. Barley seeds were a great multisensory resource, smooth and shiny, good for pouring from one container to another, burying fingers and toes, make a lovely sound in tambours/bowls, bit like ocean drums or shakers. Adding instruments to this sections definitely lifted the dynamic. Magic clay was enjoyed by everyone, even those often loathe to 'get stuck in'. It's not sticky, is completely malleable and even bounces when rolled into balls! Mbiras sound lovely but difficult to play - created a relaxed ambience. Sheep puppet enjoyed by all, even the most nervous.

