



**THE FLORIDA**  
ORCHESTRA

## INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

**The Instrument Petting Zoo** is a place where I can touch and try out instruments. I will be gentle (= touch softly), especially the string instruments, and I will put the instruments back when I'm done playing with them. The zoo can be noisy because lots of kids will be playing with the instruments at the same time.



**Bow:** This is what a string player holds in their hand and pulls across the strings to make a sound. It is made out of wood and horse hair.



**Violin:** The smallest instrument in the string family. It is held under the chin and played with a bow. The violin plays music that is very high. It usually plays the melody, or the part of the song that we sing along to.

**Viola:** The second largest instrument in the string family. It is held under the chin and played with a bow. The sounds a viola makes are warm and not too high and not too low.





**Cello:** The middle instrument in the string family. It is played while seated and has can play very warm, low notes as well as higher notes.

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**Flute:** The flute is a member of the woodwind family and is made from silver or gold. It looks like a narrow tube about 2 feet long with a row of holes covered by keys along one side. The player blows air across the small hole in the mouthpiece to produce a sound that can be either soft and mellow or high and piercing.



**Oboe:** The oboe is a tube made out of wood with metal keys and holes. An oboe player, or oboist, blows air into the oboe through a reed. An oboe can make a sound that is somewhat high and nasal.



**Clarinet:** Made from wood, the clarinet produces a fluid sound when air is blown between a single reed and the mouthpiece. By pressing metal keys with the fingers of both hands, a clarinetist can play many different notes very quickly.

**Bassoon:** The bassoon is a large double reed instrument with a lower sound than the other woodwind instruments. A bassoonist blows air through two reeds which vibrate against each other to make a low sound.



**French Horn:** The horn consists of about 12 feet of narrow, brass tubing wound into a circle. The player obtains different notes on the horn with a clear mellow sound by pressing valves with the left hand and by moving the right hand inside of the bell.

We can learn more about all of these instruments and listen to how each one sounds by going to this website from the Dallas Symphony Orchestra: <http://www.dsokids.com/listen/by-instrument/.aspx>

*Thanks to dsokids.com for terminology definitions."*

*Created for the*



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