

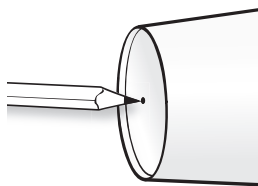
INV. 2 ACTIVITY—MAKE A SPOON GONG

You will explore more about sound and how sound travels.

Materials needed:

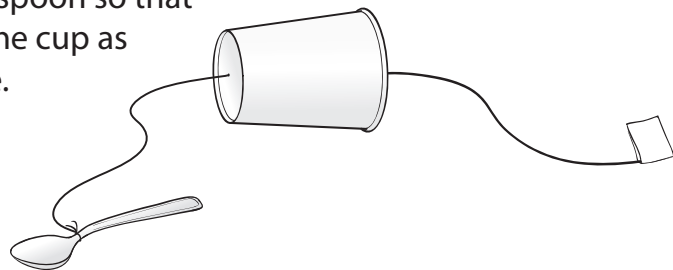
- Small bathroom paper cup (plastic will also work)
- Metal spoon (you'll get it back)
- Piece of string or yarn, about two feet
- Piece of tape, sharp pencil

Help your child make this spoon gong by first poking a tiny hole in the bottom of a paper cup. Then put one end of the string through the bottom, towards the opening, and then either tie a big knot, or put a piece of tape on that end. Pull the string so that the knot or tape is up against the bottom of the cup. Tie a knot on the other end around a spoon so that the spoon can hang from the cup as shown in the picture above.



Note: If using a plastic cup, use a push pin to poke a hole—then widen it with a pencil .

Focus question: *How does sound travel from the source (a spoon) to the receiver (your ear)?*



1. Have your child explore the system without any guidance. Guardians—make sure you try it too!
2. Eventually, make sure that the spoon is hanging free, the string is taut, and that they tap the spoon with a pencil or another spoon.
3. Ask the following questions one at a time:
How should they angle the cup to hear the sound best? Can you still hear it if the cup is facing away from your ear? Facing up towards the ceiling? Towards your ear? What happens if you touch the string while the sound is going on? (Explore to find the answers to each question.)
4. Have your child draw the system in their notebook (like image of the hanging spoon gong) and include an ear.
Ask if they can see how sound travels to their ear? (No)
Can we feel it? (Yes, we can feel the vibrations.) Since we cannot see the vibrations, ask your child to draw lines (sometimes curved lines will do) that can help us see how the sound travels from the sound source to your ear.
Your child may need to use words to help finish answering the focus question.

