

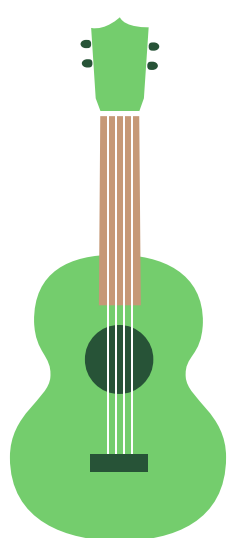
DELIVERING THE 1ST SESSION

YOU CAN UKULELE!



1. CREATE A RELAXED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

'You Can Ukulele!' is all about inclusion and it is very important that every participant feels relaxed and able to learn by making mistakes. Let the participants know that learning an instrument is a process that can take a little time but it is possible for everyone to learn, even those who don't feel they are musical.



2. INTRODUCTION TO THE UKULELE

Let the participants handle the ukulele and demonstrate how to hold it if you are right or left handed (left-handed players just need to play the chords upside down from the chord chart). Explain what a fret is and how to strum the ukulele. This is a lovely opportunity to allow participants to explore different sounds and how the strings feel.



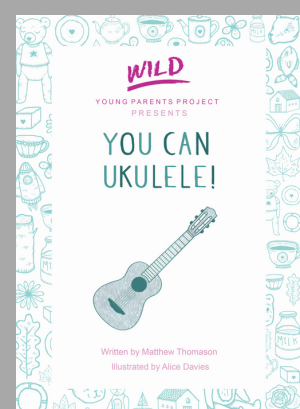
3. USING THE CHORD CHART AND 'HAVE A GO!'

Now is a good opportunity to explain how the chord chart (A5 card insert) works. Explain to the participants about how the chart corresponds to the ukulele neck and how you can count the strings and frets to find where your finger needs to be. It is important from this stage on to refer to each chord according to its colour not its name - start with the **blue** chord.



4. PRACTISE CHANGING CHORDS TO A PULSE

Usually, all players are able to play the **blue** chord at the first attempt as it only uses one finger fretted. Allow the players to strum on this chord to a pulse (clapped or clicked). Then try and let the players figure out how to play the **yellow** chord using the same principles as finding the blue chord. Once they have mastered this try strumming from a **blue** chord for 8 beats onto a **yellow** chord for 8 beats and then back to **blue**.



5. YOU CAN UKULELE! SONGS

At this point you may want to teach the red chords and practise changing between **blue**, **yellow** and **red** to a pulse before moving onto songs. If you feel the group are doing well to have achieved two chords then perhaps try one of the simpler songs from the book like 'Five Speckled Frogs' and get the group to play along with the **blue** and **yellow** chords whilst you, the leader, play the **red** chord.

RESOURCES:

www.wildproject.org.uk/you-can-ukulele