

# Brass Instruments

## When To Start...

Brass instruments are typically picked up when children are slightly older, but younger children can start - so we set out a few guidelines for you.

*Here are some tips about what to start and when...*

It's really to do with how tall your child is and whether their top two front milk teeth have been replaced with their adult teeth (central incisors) - it's important that these teeth are in place before starting any brass instrument as it helps to make sure that everything is sitting in the right place behind the mouthpiece.

### Trumpet

Trumpet is a natural starting point for brass because it is the smallest one. It's best to start straight on a metal trumpet, but if weight is specifically a problem, smaller children can use P-trumpets - plastic trumpets. We do recommend using a metal mouthpiece on these, as it helps with the tone. P-trumpets do come in lots of exciting colours, and it's very tempting! But remember a metal trumpet does sound better, so don't get drawn in by the colours if your child is capable of carrying the weight of a standard trumpet.



Recommended: If weight is a problem and you have to use a P-trumpet, then use a metal mouthpiece. <https://pbone.co.uk/product/ptrumpet/>

# Trombone

If you have your heart set on the trombone but think you're too little, don't worry! Generally, playing the trombone is down to the length of your child's arm. Often little children can't reach the 6th and 7th positions (where the slide is at its longest). Again, there are P-bones which are available for smaller children in this instance - we would recommend metal mouthpieces still. The most important thing is that your child is physically comfortable with what they are playing, that the weight of the instrument isn't a strain when both carrying around and playing.



Recommended: P-bones can be useful for smaller children who struggle with the weight - we would again recommend to use a metal mouthpiece.

<https://pbone.co.uk/product/jiggs-pbone/>

# Euphonium and Tuba

We might be stating the obvious here but Euphoniums and Tubas are BIG! So our advice is to make sure your child is big enough! Talk to your tutor if your child is interested in the lower brass and they can advise you with the best time to start as much of this is a case by case basis.