

Discover the Art of Foley: Become a Junior Sound Designer!

After reading “From Squeaky Doors to Dinosaur Roars: The Art of Sound Effects” (pages 10–11, *Piano Inspires Kids*, Summer 2025), invite students to become “Junior Foley Artists.” Using everyday items, they’ll create and layer sound effects to match on-screen action or their own ideas—sharpening their listening, imagination, and storytelling skills. Keep a collection of fun props—like balls, boots, chimes, or fabric—in your studio to inspire their sound experiments.

1. Discover the Art of Sound Design: Show & Tell Your Foley Creations
 - Tell a story with sound by designing effects for a silent video.
 - Create a short (1-minute) silent video using toys, pets, or friends.
 - Write a sound plan describing what sound is needed and when.
 - Design and record Foley effects to match the video.
 - Ask students:
 - “What was the most creative sound you made?”
 - “What part was most fun or tricky?”
 - “How did sound bring your video to life?”
 - “What makes a good Foley artist?”
 - “How did this activity change the way you’ll listen to a movie?”
 - Bonus: Name your sound studio (e.g., “Crunch Soundworks”) and present your work like a pro.
2. Explore the Mystery Sound Box
 - Focus on listening skills and sound recognition.
 - Record 3–5 mystery sounds using various objects.
 - Challenge others to guess the sound source before revealing it.
 - Explain why you chose each item and how you used it.
 - Ask students:
 - “What made the sound easy or hard to guess?”
 - “How does sound connect to memory?”
 - “Which sounds surprised your listeners the most?”

For creative approaches to integrating silent film music, improvisation, and historical storytelling into creative studio projects, see George Litterst, Penny Lazarus, and Donald Sosin’s article, “[Sound and Silents](#)” in *Piano Magazine* (November 2012, Vol. 4, No. 5).