

# Make a telephone

**You will need:** two empty yoghurt or cream pots (small), paint, paintbrush, decorative materials such as present/parcel tape and stickers, 1.5m+ string, 2 buttons, glue, Blu Tac, skewer or similar.

## Instructions:

1. Paint the yoghurt or cream pots. Acrylic paint works well. Leave to dry.
2. Decorate the pots with present/parcel tape, stickers or any other decoration you have to hand. We had some small wooden hearts to use for decoration.
3. Cut at least 1.5 metres of string.
4. In the middle of the base of both yoghurt pots, use a skewer or similar to make a hole. Put Blu Tac inside the pots where you are going to push through the skewer. **THIS STEP NEEDS TO BE DONE BY AN ADULT.**
5. Thread one end of the string through the hole in one pot. Put one of the buttons onto the string (inside the pot) and knot. Repeat with the other end of the string and pot/button. NB: the button vibrates, improving the sound quality.
6. Pull the string taut (as it won't work otherwise) and have a secret chat with your sibling or another member of your family. One needs to speak into the pot at one end and the other needs to put the pot to their ear to listen.

**Fun facts:** The Museum has some replica (copy) telephones in the permanent exhibition that can be handled. One is called a 'candlestick telephone' and this was popular from late 1890s until 1940s. Candlestick telephones have a mouthpiece mounted on top of the stand and a receiver that was held by the user to the ear during the telephone call. If you want to see what one of these telephones looked like, search for 'candlestick telephones' on the internet.

