

MUSIC HOMEPLAY

PLAY AT HOME

You can help your children develop their listening skills by encouraging them to tune into the sounds around them and mimic them. Some fun suggestions: footsteps—skipping, galloping, running—a ticking clock and water waves. The rhythmic possibilities are endless!

Use household items to create instruments with your children. Create drums using pots, pans, Tupperware and wooden spoons. Use two pan lids as cymbals. Two tablespoons taped back-to-back can be used for tapping each other or your knees. Be creative and find the many sound possibilities in your home!

After experimenting with homemade instruments, a great way to familiarize your children with rhythm is to play along to a song. They can drum, shake, tap or jingle along to the music. Remember that there is no right or wrong way to play. You will be surprised at how inventive your children can be.

Encourage your children to create simple rhythm by using spoken language. Demonstrate to your children how you can clap, tap, rattle or drum the rhythm of a favorite phrase such as: Cock-a-doodle-do; Mary Had A Little Lamb (or other nursery rhymes); Listen to the clock-tick, tock, tick, tock; Cake, Cake Birthday Cake; or invent your own sounds and words.

ENCOURAGING MUSICAL PLAY AT HOME

Play your own game of rhythmic “follow the leader.” Clap a simple rhythm with your hands and encourage your children to copy you as they play one of their homemade instruments or clap their hands.

Incorporate physical movement into your rhythms by marching, skipping, hopping or any movement that comes to mind as you move around inside or outside.

Try a quiet-and-loud activity. Have your children reach above their head when they hear you play or sing a loud rhythm. Next, have your children touch their toes when they hear a quiet rhythm.

Books:

The Happy Hedgehog Band by Jill Barton

To Be A Drum by Evelyn Coleman

The Drums of Noto Hanto by J. Alison James

Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney

The Leopard's Drum by Jessica Souhami

What's That Sound, Woolly Bear by Philemon Sturges



Minnesota
Children's
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Smart Play

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