

Music Monday: Musical Shakers

Arkansas Children's Week
Week of the Young Child
2016

Children that grow up hearing music, singing songs, and moving to the beat are enjoying what experts call a "rich sensory environment". Children are exposed to a wide variety of tastes, smells, textures, colors and sounds when they are exposed to music. It is important in the lives of children.

"Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education"
-Quote from Plato

Why is it so meaningful for children? Children of all ages express themselves through music. Even at an early age, children will sway, bounce or move their hands in response to the music they hear. Why is it an important part of early childhood learning? Music and rhythm, in different forms, are a part of all children's lives. It's portable. You can take it and make it wherever you go.

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Here are two ideas for making shakers for children.



Musical Maraca Shakers

Items needed: plastic spoons, plastic eggs, rice, washi tape

Directions: Fill one side of the egg with rice. Close the egg shut. Then, put you a spoon on each side of the egg and wrap it with washi tape. Wrap the tape around the spoon handles to secure the shaker. These are great for young children to use and shake to the beat of the music!

**Low cost & time efficient*

-Costs: including supplies already at home \$3.00

-Time spent: 10 minutes or so to assemble the shakers



Seed Shakers

Items needed: empty plastic bottles, seeds, i.e. beans, corn or rice, glue

Directions: Fill each bottle about 1/2 full of seeds. Put glue around the top of the bottle. Screw the lid on it and allow to dry 24 hours before using the shakers. They can use these while the music is playing.

-Costs: beans and rice \$4.00 -adapted from Growing Up WILD

For more ideas about music and early childhood education:

- Follow Best Care Connected on Pinterest 
- Growing Up WILD
<http://www.projectwild.org/GrowingUpWILD/about.htm>
- Multi-cultural music instrument ideas:
<https://makingmulticulturalmusic.wordpress.com/2012/04/10/14-world-music-instruments-that-can-be-made-from-recycled-materials/>
- Make your own drum:
<http://www.howtorunahomedaycare.com/articles/make-a-simple-drum-for-preschool-fun/>
- Organic Crafts: 75 Earth Friendly Art Activities

Resource credits:

Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature for Young Children

<http://www.whatsupfagans.com/2013/12/m-is-for-music-preschool-lesson-plan/>