

Storytime Activity Guide

Play This Book!

by Jessica Young, illustrated by Daniel Wiseman

“Rat-A-Tat, Rat-A-Tat”, “Tink, Tink, Tink”, “Crash! Crash! Crash!”. Follow a group of children as they “play” instruments in their band and join in using your imagination to make a beat on the drum, tap piano keys, and bang symbols.

Did you know?

Did you know that rhymes, counting syllables, and being able to identify the different sounds in words are all a part of Phonological Awareness and learning to read? Look for ways to talk about word sounds or make up silly songs and rhymes as you share Play This Book! with your child.

Talk about it!

There are a lot of instruments in this book. Is there one that your child would like to learn to play? How about you? Is there an instrument that you’d like to learn to play?

Was your child able to hear the rhyming words in the book? Read it again and put an emphasis on the rhyming words. Was your child able to hear them all this time? Talk about the rhymes in the story.

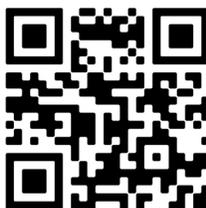
Play: Name that Tune

We use word sounds and endings to convey different meanings in English. Children need to be able to hear the difference between the various sounds we make to comprehend what they are hearing, and to read with fluidity. Being able to identify familiar tunes by sound alone will help your child practice differentiating the various word sounds and inflectional endings we make. Play Name that Tune!

1. Hum a tune and see if your child can guess what you are humming!
2. Start with something easy like “The Itsy Bitsy Spider.”
3. Make sure to put a big emphasis on each syllable as you hum. The syllabation of “The Itsy Bitsy Spider,” for example, is “the it/sy bit/sy spi/der went up the wa/ter spout.” Try to hum in the same manner: “hm hm/hm hm/hm hm/hm hm hm hm hm/hm hm.”
4. Choose songs your child will know and make it more challenging as your child practices.

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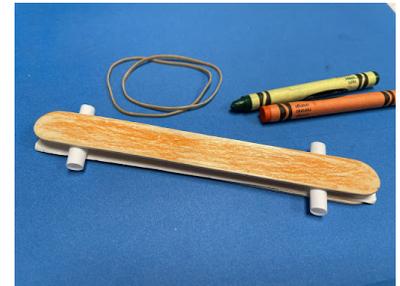
Create!: Tongue Depressor Harmonica

Materials:

- Jumbo craft sticks (2)
- A slip of paper
- Two smaller rubber bands
- Two little pieces of plastic straw (1.5" long)

Directions:

1. Have your child decorate the tongue depressors with crayons.
2. Help your child cut the slip of paper so that it is the same length and width as the tongue depressors.
3. Help your child make a sandwich with your tongue depressors. Have them lay the slip of paper on one tongue depressor and put each of the pieces of straw on the ends.
4. Then have them lay the other tongue depressor on top and wrap one rubber band around the outside of each of the straws.
5. To play the harmonica, all they have to do is blow. It makes a really cool noise.



When your child blows through the harmonica, the slip of paper vibrates and makes a sound.

To change the pitch, slide the straws closer together or farther apart. When you slide them closer together, the section of paper that is vibrating is shorter, so it makes a higher sound. Slide the straws all the way to the edges, near the rubber bands, to get the lowest possible sound.



Make it an experiment!

- Does the thickness of the paper affect the pitch?
- What if you swap the paper for another rubber band instead?
- Can you change the pitch by blowing harder or softer?
- Does the shape of your mouth affect the pitch?

