



Family Literacy Week
January 21 - 28, 2024

Let's have a family party!

Preschoolers

Make your own instrument

Making an instrument with household items is a fun way for preschoolers to develop fine motor skills and allows them to explore the world of sound and movement.

Tambourine Fun!

What you need:

- two paper plates
- 6-7 strings (each 15 cm long)
- hole punch
- beads, buttons or dried beans
- crayons or felt pens, stickers (optional)
- bells for tying onto strings (optional)

What you do:

1. Start with two small paper plates. Place them face to face.
2. Punch holes every 7 cm around the edge using a hole punch.
3. Place a few beads, buttons or dried beans inside.
4. Align the plates and tie strings through each hole (optional – tie on bells).
5. Decorate the outside of the plates.
6. Shake the tambourine to make your own music!

Try making other instruments:

- Tissue box guitar – stretch a few elastic bands over the hole of the tissue box.
- Box drum (cardboard cajon) – empty a cardboard box and flip it over. Your child can tap the top or sides to create their own music.



Other ways to use your tambourine:

- Play a song your child knows. Let your child play their instrument any way they like. They can dance, shake and jump with it.
- Clap a rhythm and invite your child to repeat it with their instrument. Describe the rhythm, e.g. fast, slow, bouncy, light.

“The way you change and help music, is by tryin’ to invent new ways to play.” – Miles Davis