

Rattle, Sing, Drum: Exploring Music

Musical play will help your child:

- Freely express himself through sound and movement
- Explore different types of music and dance
- Learn how to sing



Ideas to try with your child:

- Make music together. You can make drums, rattles and instruments with items found around the house. Bowls and spoons can be drums, a box of macaroni makes a rattle, or humming into a paper towel tube can be an instrument. Crank up a variety of music from different countries and join in with your instruments.
- Dance together to your child's favorite music. Check out kid friendly music CDs from your local library, like *Early, Early Childhood Songs* by Ella Jenkins, or *Singable songs for the Very Young* by Raffi
- Sing along together with your CDs or your favorite songs on YouTube during the day: during bath time, to the radio in the car, or into a pretend microphone.

If your child is struggling:

- Have a sing along! Write the words of your child's favorite songs on 3"x 5" cards. Let them choose one and then sing with them.
- Fill 3 or more glass drinking glasses with different amounts of water and hit them gently with a metal spoon to make music. Remember to supervise!
- Do the Hokey Pokey dance: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qmr_6kMbts

Going further:

- Paint a song. Turn on Raffi, Mozart or any musical favorite, spread out a large piece of paper and paint or draw to the music with your child. Some classical music favorites can be found here: <http://www.letsplaykidsmusic.com/childrens-classical-music-favourites/>
- Dance holding ribbons or streamers and watch them swirl around as you both move.
- Great instruments to experiment on are kazoos, harmonicas and recorders. Check the dollar store for these instruments.



The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Dance, sing, drum, use rattles, draw or paint." Learning About My World, Ages-3-4 years, pg. 65