



## Make Your Own Kind of Music

You don't need to have a beautiful voice or play an instrument to make music with children. Try some of these musical activities with the children to make your own kind of music.

**Lip Sync** — Play a favorite music tape or CD. Give the children spoons (for microphones) and start singing! If they really enjoy lip sync, get out a low stool or box for them to use as a stage.

**Repeat the Rhythm** — Clap a beat and ask the children to repeat it after you.

Try bouncing balls to the beat of a favorite song.

Point out rhythm patterns when you hear them — the ticking of a clock, the squeak of a swing or rocking chair, etc. Listen to these rhythm patterns with the children.

Clap the names of the children: two claps for names like Mary and Jacob and one clap for names like Neil and Ann.

Sit on chairs and listen to songs. Clap hands slowly during slow parts. Clap faster or stomp feet during a faster song.

**Sound Line** — Tie a piece of rope across the room or hang it outside, like a clothesline. Hang items from it, such as wooden blocks, plastic bottles, empty cardboard tubes, pie tins, etc. Give the children wooden or metal spoons to strike the hanging objects. Talk about the sounds they make.

**Story Sounds** — The next time you tell a story, have the children make sounds to go with it, such as the wind blowing, someone running, knocking on a door, etc.

**What Do You Hear?** — Lie down on the floor with the children and have everyone close their eyes.

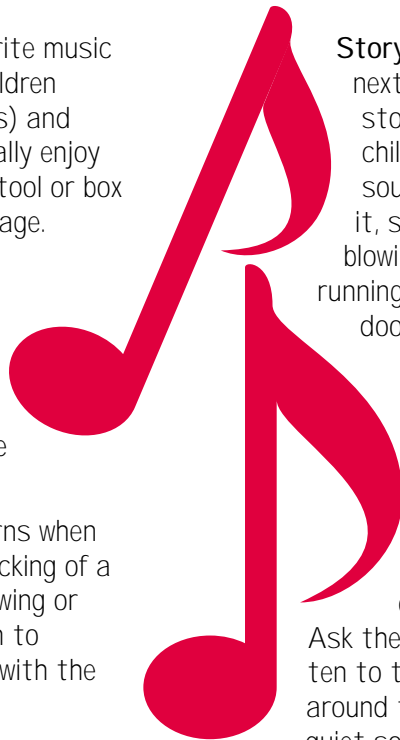
Ask the children to listen to the sounds around them. What quiet sounds do they hear? Are there loud sounds? Soft sounds? See if they can hum one of the sounds they hear.

**Follow Me** — Have one child lead a dance and the other children follow.

**Mood Music** — Play different types of music for the children and ask them how the music makes them feel. They may want to move to the music. Or give the children crayons or paint and paper to paint the way the music makes them feel.

**Soft and Loud Singing** — Choose a song and have everyone sing it very softly. Now sing it again very loudly.

**Bell Ringer** — Tie three or four bells together with a piece of string or yarn. Tie a knot at one end of the string. Tape the other end to a wooden spoon or popsicle stick. Let the children play the bells by shaking the spoon or stick.





### Pretend to be...

- Snowflakes falling to the ground. What happens when the wind blows? Do you melt when you hit the ground?
- A gardener as you hoe, plant, and weed.
- Seeds growing in the sun and rain.
- Baby birds and mother birds flying on a sunny day.
- Butterflies sitting on flowers and flying away. You could use colorful scarves for butterfly wings.
- Worms as you wiggle on the ground.

**Body Parts Dance** — Have each child find a partner. Call out a body part and have the children dance while touching their partner — thumb to thumb, knee to knee, elbow to elbow, toe to toe, etc.

**Musical Hands** — Play some music for the children to dance to. When the music stops, have the children find a partner and hold hands. Play the music again for the children to dance while holding their partner's hand. When the music stops a second time, partners should join to make larger groups of children holding hands. Play the music again until everyone is in one big group, holding hands.

