

Make a shaker

Create a fun musical shaker with your child and explore the joy of making music together. This hands-on activity combines creativity and learning, encourage sensory exploration while being a fun way to bond. Plus, it's an eco-friendly way to recycle everyday items from around your house.

What you need

- Small, empty, clean and dry plastic bottle
- A range of filling materials such as rice, pasta, buttons, lentils, beads or eco glitter
- Everyday materials to decorate the bottle with such as cut up magazines, wrapping paper or pieces of material
- A funnel or a piece of paper rolled into a cone
- Strong glue, tape.

Activity

- Lay out the different filling materials and let your child choose which ones they'd like to put in the bottle. You can explore how different materials make different sounds
- Use a funnel or a rolled-up piece of paper to help your child pour the chosen materials into the bottle. You can encourage them to add a little at a time and shake the bottle to test the sound
- You may want to add some shiny glittery items such as sequins or eco glitter
- Once the bottle is filled to the desired level (leaving some space for the materials to move around), securely seal using glue and/or tape to ensure the contents stay inside (this step should be done by an adult)
- Support your child to decorate the outside of the bottle with colourful stickers, tape, or pens. You can also tie ribbon around the neck of the bottle for an extra touch
- Once the shaker is complete, encourage your child to shake it and explore the different sounds it makes.



More ideas

- Use your shaker to play along with music, sing songs, or create a rhythm
- Use words like quiet, loud, fast, slow to describe how to play the shaker
- Make a selection of bottles with different items making different sounds.

Learning opportunities

- Fine motor skills and hand eye co ordination
- Listening skills.

Activity: Make a shaker MyNDNA+Parents Guide V0.1 – 4 November 2024