

Rhythm and Rhymes

It's fun to recite nursery rhymes and sing rhyming songs with your child. When you do this you are also helping your child get ready to read. Children learn the rhythmic patterns of language and also learn to hear the individual sounds within words.

Make a paper plate shaker with your child. Then have her use it as a rhythm instrument while you recite nursery rhymes together or sing rhyming songs. Vary the speed.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!

Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns!
One a penny two a penny,
Hot cross buns
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons.
One a penny two a penny
Hot cross buns.

Paper Plate Shaker

1. Have your child decorate the bottoms of two uncoated white paper plates with crayons, markers, or paint.
2. Help him staple the plates together around the edges with a few dried beans inside.
3. Streamers from crepe paper or ribbon can be stapled between the plates to hang down.

For an even easier version, decorate the bottom of one paper plate and fold it in half and staple the edges together with dried beans inside.