



Let's Make Some Music

Description

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Students create their very own tambourine and learn about making beats.

Supplies

- Paper plates (2 per student)
- Markers
- Staplers or tape
- Crayons
- Stickers
- String
- Streamers
- Dried beans or beads

How to Play

1. Explain that we are making our very own musical instrument called a tambourine.
2. The first step to making a tambourine is to decorate our tambourine.
3. Pass out two paper plates to each student and show them which side of the plate needs to be decorated (the backside that you don't eat off of).
4. Encourage them to decorate with musical items like notes, a microphone, or their favorite artist.
5. After each student has finished decorating, pass out the beans/beads. Have students fill one of their plates with beads. Put the other plate on top. Use tape or a stapler to secure the edges of both plates together to make sure that the beans/beads do not fall out.
6. Once each student's tambourine is filled, attach the streamers/string to the sides with the stapler or with tape.

7. Explain to the students that the string and streamers don't help make music, but make playing the tambourine more fun and look more colorful.
8. Show the group how to play the tambourine. Hold it with one hand and bring the other hand to it to make the noise, similar to clapping your hands together.
9. Keep it interactive by making a beat and having the group try to repeat the same beat back to you. Remind students to control themselves by holding their tambourine quietly while they listen to the beat you create.
10. Challenge the group with longer and more complicated beats and with different volumes of the tambourine.

Activity Prompts for Reflection

- What was difficult for you to do during this activity?
- What was a good choice you made during this activity?
- What are some steps you'd have to take if you wanted to grow up and be a musician?
- Does anyone have the strength of playing music? What instruments do you know how to play?
- How difficult was it to control yourself and only play after I showed you the beat?
- Was there anything you did that helped you control yourself?

Other Ways to Play

- Already have the tambourine stapled together so all the students have to do is decorate the plates and add streamers or string.
- Have students do addition problems with the beans/beads that are going inside the tambourines. Ex: add 5 + 2 beans/ beads to your tambourine.
- After they finish their tambourines pair students together and have them come up with their own unique beat/chant that they can show the group.
- Play one song that you know the students like and help them play their tambourines to the beat of the song.

Additional Notes

- When purchasing the paper plates, make sure there is enough of a dip in the plate so that when you staple the two plates together it creates enough space for the beans/beads to have room to move and make the music.
- An alternative activity/instrument you could make would be a rainstick using a paper towel roll and beans/beads. Tape off one end, fill it with the beans, and then tape off the remaining side.
- Use the [SEL Activity Prompts](#) to tie other SEL competencies to this activity.

Category

1. Activities
2. Self-Management

Sel-competency

1. Self-Management

Allotted-time

1. 30 minutes

Themes

1. Acting and Music