

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN)
Parent and Provider Resource: Activities for Distance Learning

Development of Language through Music

The following activity will support your child's learning while they are at home. Talk to your child and ask questions as you play. As your child listens to you, your child builds language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to your child's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at www.chs-ca.org and click on the News and Events tab for more learning resources.

INFANTS - Activity: Bottle Shakers

What you need:

- Three clean, empty, plastic water bottles
- Glue
- Any small item that will make noise when the bottle is shaken such as: buttons, pebbles, sand, dry beans, or uncooked rice



What to do:

- Prepare this activity ahead of time
- Take a clean, empty, water bottle and fill it three-quarters full with pebbles, or one of the other materials listed
- Fill the next bottle halfway full with pebbles, and the third bottle one-quarter full with pebbles. You should hear a different sound with each bottle when it is shaken
- Place a small amount of glue inside the bottle lid so that once it is screwed on it cannot be taken off. This will prevent the contents from becoming a choking hazard
- Sit on the floor next to your infant and place the bottles in front of you
- Allow your infant to explore the bottles and discover that they make noise. If the child does not reach for the bottle, try laying the bottle on its side and gently rolling it toward the child
- As your infant rolls or shakes the bottle, describe what is happening. For example, "You are shaking the bottle. It is making noise"
- Give the child some time to explore and listen to the bottles, and then talk about the differences in the sounds each bottle makes
- Use the bottle shakers as a rhythm instrument when you sing songs together

What the activity does:

- Builds the infant's ability to track sound
- Encourages infants to notice similarities, differences, and changes in sound ([auditory discrimination](#))
- Introduces language when the adult narrates what is happening
- Practices motor (muscle) development