

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.

SCHOOL-AGE - Activity: Drumming Words

What you need:

- Twelve clean, and empty tin cans with the labels removed (from canned vegetables, beans, or fruit; any size is fine)
- Chopsticks
- Laundry marker in a color that is easy to see, like blue or black
- Heavy-duty tape such as duct tape
- Box to store the game
- Activity adapted from: [*And Next Comes L*](#)

What to do:

- Before giving the cans to your child, use the heavy-duty tape to cover any sharp edges left by the can opener. You may need to cover it more than once
- Once the cans are safe to handle, place them on a table, bottom side up
- Invite your child to help you write one of the following twelve most frequently used letters on the bottom of each can with the laundry marker: A C D E I L N O R S T U
- Mix the letters up in no particular order, but keep them in one group so they are easy to reach
- Start by making a list together of four or five words that have these letters
- Invite your child to use the chopsticks to drum on each letter of the words
- Once the child has the idea of the game, see how many more words you can find to drum
- Continue collecting cans until you have all twenty-six letters of the English alphabet so your child can drum even more words!

What the activity does:

- Encourages children to notice similarities, differences, and changes in sound ([auditory discrimination](#))
- Introduces vocabulary
- Practices letter recognition and spelling
- Practices [crossing the mid-line](#) (reaching across the body to perform a task) which is crucial in learning to write
- Strengthens motor development and eye-hand coordination

