Fun with Music Activity Guide

Music is all around us! We sing lullabies to babies, watch toddlers create rhythms by banging on pots and pans and we all dance along to our favorite songs. Studies show that musical experiences for young children actually increase their brain development, especially their language and reading skills, while also building motor skills allowing the mind and body to work together.

It’s easy to explore music with your young child at home. Singing songs with your child helps slow down language and helps them hear the smaller sounds that make up words. Make a simple rhythm instrument by filling an empty jug mug or plastic beverage bottle with dried beans, rice or pasta. Decorate the outside of the bottle with stickers and make sure the cap is secured with child proof tape. Play some favorite tunes and have a family dance party!

Enjoy some jazzy fun with this read-aloud—**Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band** by Kwame Alexander

Want to learn more? Check out these titles from the Saint Paul Public Library!

- **Salsa Lullaby** by Jen Arena
- **Astrid & Apollo and the Happy New Year** by V.T. Bidania
- **Bowwow Powwow** by Brenda Child
- **Drum Dream Girl** by Margarita Engle
- **I Will Dance** by Nancy Bo Flood
- **Accordionly** by Michael Genhart
- **Salam Alaikum** by J Harris
- **I Got the Rhythm** by Connie Schofield-Morrison
- **The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk** by Surishtha Sehgal
- **Libba** by Laura Veirs