

# Maracas and Shakers

This activity explores



**Patterns**



**Number Sense & Counting**

## Learning Goals

Create patterns using color, movement, and sound; practice counting objects and sounds.



## What You'll Need

- Two empty toilet paper rolls
- Markers, washi tape, or acrylic paint
- Tape
- Dried beans or rice

## Steps



Denotes a step that may require adult support.

**1. Make a pattern!** Decorate each toilet paper roll with patterns using markers, tape, or paint.



**2. Make maracas!** Fold one end of one tube and seal it shut with tape.

**3. Fill the maracas!** Count 10 beans or grains of rice and place them inside the tube.



**4. Seal the maracas!** Use tape to close the other end. Repeat steps with the other tube.

**5. Shake, shake, shake!** Shake the maracas to the beat of your favorite songs. Make a rhythm your child can copy, and ask them to create their own. Try to incorporate counting and patterns into your rhythms.

## Watch Video



## Talk Together

- Let's create a pattern together. You start with a beat and then I'll go.
- My pattern has 4 beats: shake, shake, shake, ahh. You try making a pattern with 4 beats.

## Book Suggestion

**"Rhythm Rescue"**  
written by Vicky Weber  
and illustrated by  
Geneviève Viel-Taschereau

## Online Game

**Peg + Cat: Music Maker**

[pbskids.org/peg/games/music-maker](https://pbskids.org/peg/games/music-maker)