

# Playtime

It's ok....go ahead and let them laugh, smile, and play! Having fun is not the opposite of learning things. In fact, the two are intricately connected in the brain. Learning is more memorable when the mood is upbeat and positive. Kids who are laughing and smiling are more likely to be learning in ways that last and meaningful. You can also practice spelling and cursive with chalk and play word games in the car. Physical activities like a game of tag or a walk in the woods are also proven brain boosters. Below are additional examples of summer learning activities that incorporate playtime.

- Have sack, peanut or egg races with learning stations. Allow children to determine the learning activities (completing a math task) at each station.
- Plan a picnic as an activity and create/decorate a menu with food descriptions and prices
- Hold a bring-a-dish block party. Have students draw/write about the history of the various foods
- Rent a movie and have special "movie night" snacks
- Make your own bubble solutions and spend hours dipping bubbles!!!

## **Do-It-Yourself Bubble Solution:**

- 1 tbsp Glycerine (vegetable oil)
- 2 tbsp Dish Soap
- 9 oz water
- Mix it all up (the glycerin added to the mixture is key)
- Pour it into small plastic bottles or a pie pan, grab your favorite wand and enjoy big beautiful bubbles.


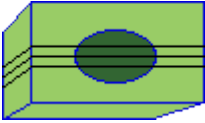
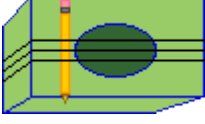
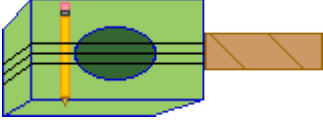
## **Make Musical Instruments**

**This is an easy way to make a guitar!**

Supplies needed:

- An old shoe box or tissue box,
- Rubber bands, scissors, and a pencil.

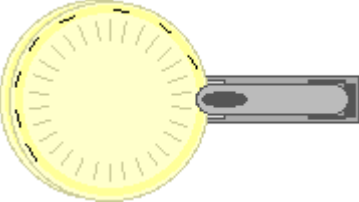
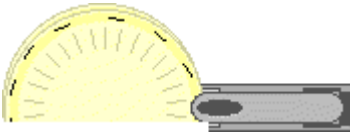
- Optional: Tape and a paper-towel tube

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find an old shoe box, tissue box, or other cardboard box.</li> <li>• Have an adult cut an oval-shaped hole in the top.</li> </ul>
	<p>Stretch a few rubber bands around the box and over the hole.</p>
	<p>Put a pencil under the rubber bands on one side.</p>
	<p>Optional steps. Tape on a paper-towel tube and decorate the box.</p>

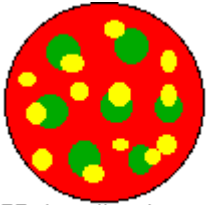
## Paper Plate Maracas

### Supplies needed:

- One or two paper plates
- Dried beans, rice, or popcorn
- Stapler
- Paint, markers, or crayons
- Optional: crepe paper streamers

	<p>Put a handful or two of dried beans, rice, or popcorn in a paper plate. Staple a paper plate securely on top of it.</p>	
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[You can use a single plate for each maraca by folding a paper plate in half, adding the beans, then stapling the rim to itself.]



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Decorate the maracas with crayons, markers, or paint.