



Woodstock Chimes®

Family Fun Magazine selects Gripper Shaker and Jambourine from the Woodstock Music Collection for the “*Products We Love*” column in the June 2007 issue (page 124)



Family Fun 123

She's Got the Beat
A plastic spatula makes a perfect drumstick for this homemade percussion kit.

PRODUCTS WE LOVE

Magnificent Music Makers

Gripper Shaker Extra-large shakers offer extra safety and sound, and have easy-to-grip handles just right for babies. Ages birth and up; Woodstock Percussion, \$5

Mozart Magic Cube It's not strictly speaking, but little ones love to press the light-up buttons, which add and subtract instruments as an electronic orchestra plays eight Mozart favorites. All ages; Marchin, \$30

Jambourine The jingles on this tambourine are on the inside for safer playing. Ages 2 and up; Woodstock Percussion, \$6

Beano Drum A colorful lollipop design, a rainbow-hued mallet, and an easy-to-hold stick make this a drum you can't — well, you can't — beat. Ages 3 and up; Remo, \$14 to \$18 (3 sizes available)

Water Xylophone Tinging in the tub with this colorful floating xylophone, which boasts a surprisingly lovely sound and has detachable keys that fit together like a puzzle. Ages 3 and up; Alex, \$12

Tickles and Tunes This lively CD from Canadian musician Kathy Reid-Nalman features 36 kid favorites and includes both lyrics and movement suggestions. All ages; Merriweather Records, \$16; mastermindtoys.com

Sound Lab Ages: 20 months and up

From strumming crib bars to drumming in a garage band, kids always seem to know how to get a bang out of life. Cultivate your child's curiosity with one of these noisy experiments. All you need is a simple mallet: a drumstick, chopstick, or wooden spoon will work fine, or go to musicchapsody.com for a kid-friendly selection.

- **Gather a dozen or so** different objects from around the house — a metal pot, a plastic rattle, a wooden block — then line them up and hit each in turn to release its sounds. After you and your child have listened to them all, ask her to cover her eyes (or use a blindfold), and see if she can guess which object you're hitting.
- **Take a walk around your house** or neighborhood and use your mallet to tap on the surfaces you pass. Does a door sound different from a recycling bin? A basketball from an iron gate?
- **Create a kitchen drum set** and let your little percussionist bang away while you get dinner ready. Try pots and pans, bowls and cookie sheets, and, of course, a pair of pot-lid cymbals!

Contributor Catherine Newman is author of the memoir *Waiting for Birdy* (Penguin).

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