



Family Activities

Title: **Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin**

Author: **Lloyd Moss**

Illustrator: **Marjorie Priceman**

The feature book explores how rhyming, melodies and mathematics help combine sounds of different instruments, making music fun — and fun music. Taking a trip to New York City’s Juilliard School, LeVar finds out how orchestra members combine their sounds, and work as a team under the leadership of the conductor. Then STOMP, a percussion performance group, demonstrates how it incorporates creativity, expression, rhythm, dance and self-expression in a team effort that’s very active and entertaining.

Here are several activities you and your child can do together after watching this episode.

Catch the Beat

Your child can make simple instruments:

- *Rubber-Band Banjo*: String five rubber bands across the opening of an empty tissue box.
- *Shaker*: Put dried beans or rice in an empty coffee can with a plastic lid.
- *Maracas*: Decorate a paper bag. Put dried beans inside. Use yarn or string to tie the bag closed. Shake, shake, shake!
- *Kitchen Cymbal*: Borrow a metal pan lid from the kitchen and strike it with a wooden spoon.
- Are there any baby rattles or whistles around the house? Grab those too.

Now your child and their friends can start their own rhythm band. Sing songs you know and keep the beat with your homemade instruments.

Gotta Sing!

Have family fun outdoors by making ordinary activities into an ongoing songfest. The next time you are at a playground, try these singing activities:

- *Sliding Notes*: As you climb a slide, sing the word “uu-u-u-u-p” beginning with low notes and ending with high notes when you reach the top. As you slide down, sing “d-ow-ow-ow-ow-n” beginning with high notes and ending with low notes. Try other words too.
- *See-Saw*: Sing high and low notes with your partner, as you go up and down on a see-saw. If you balance yourselves in the middle, sing the same note.
- *Sing Me Your Name*: How many syllables in your name? Sol-o-mon Grun-dy has five syllables. Sing your name out loud, singing the same number of notes as syllables in your name.



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Musical Sit-Down

Play this simple version of musical chairs with the whole family (minus the chairs). One person is in charge of the music. While the music plays, everyone walks around in a circle. When the music stops, everyone plops down. The last one to sit down is out. Continue play until one person remains. That person is then in charge of the music, and a new game begins!

Visit Your Community Library

Here are some books you can check out on your next trip to the library:

Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney

Meet the Orchestra by Ann Hayes