



Family Activities

Title: **Hip Cat**

Author: **Jonathan London**

Illustrator: **Woodleigh Hubbard**

This is the story of a cat that creates a sound all his own and then experiences how the rhyme and rhythm enchant his audience. Jazz, America's most original music form, is the topic of this show. Viewers experience examples of improvisation in music, literature, art, and dance, and meet Joshua Redman, a jazz saxophonist who talks about how music has influenced his life.

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

Tree-Branch Harp

This is a simple musical instrument even your youngest budding musician can make and play.

You will need:

- y-shaped tree branch
- three or more rubber bands

Find a small tree branch that is shaped like the letter Y. Stretch three or more rubber bands across the V of the branch. Now you are ready to play your harp!

Clever Cat Games

Try these games if you have a pet cat! They are guaranteed to challenge your cat's curiosity and bring a smile to your face.

Game #1: Fill a clean, clear plastic bottle halfway with water. You can add a small toy or a few marbles in there as well. Cap the bottle. Place it on the floor and spin it while your cat watches. Then let your cat have fun with it.

Game #2: Put four nuts with shells, marbles, or beads in a small plastic container with a lid. Show the container to your cat and shake it. Then let your cat play with it. Does your cat push it around to try to figure out what's inside?

Game #3: Cut the bottoms off three large paper bags. Set the bags on their sides and tape the bags together to form a long tunnel. Use a toy to lure your cat into the tunnel or roll a ball into the tunnel to see if your cat will chase it.



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Visit Your Community Library

Here is a book you can check out on your next trip to the library:

Charlie Parker Played Be Bop by Chris Raschka