

CYMBALS

Materials: 2 paper plates
markers, crayons

Directions: Let the children decorate plates with markers or crayons. You could tie this in with a seasonal theme, use their names, shapes, letters, etc. Play some perky music and have children follow along as you clap to the beat of the music. Clap over your head. Clap down low. Tap on hips and shoulders. Play “follow the leader” where children make up movements with the plates as classmates follow along.

drjean.org, Nov 2009

SHAKER

Materials: 2 paper plates
dried beans or seeds
stapler, paints, markers, or crayons

Directions: Invite the children to decorate their plates. Staple the plates together around the outside rim leaving a 3” opening. Have each child get a handful of beans and insert them inside the plates. Staple the opening and shake, shake, shake!



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SKATES

Materials: 2 plates

Directions: Give each child two plates. Demonstrate how to put these on the floor and place a foot on each plate. Play some slow music and encourage the children to “skate” by sliding their feet on the plates. Can they skate backwards? Can they skate sideways? Can they balance on one foot? Can they find a friend and hold hands and skate?

Adaptations: Children can also sit on plates and spin around. Or, they can scoot backwards like crabs.

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HAT

Materials: 1 plate, tissue paper markers, string, hole punch, glue

Directions: Cut the inner section out of the plate. Decorate the outer rim with markers. Cut 4” squares out of tissue paper and wad them up and glue on the rim to look like flowers. Punch a hole in each side and tie on a 16” piece of string or ribbon. Place the hat on your head and tie under your chin.



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COLLAR

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Materials: 1 paper plate
markers, construction paper, glue

Directions: Cut the inner section out of the plate. Cut a slit through the outer rim so you can open it and put it around your neck.

Adaptations: Decorate with construction paper flowers to make a lei.



Decorate with colorful polka dots to make a clown collar.

Cut a red bow out of construction paper and staple it in the center to make a choir collar.

KITE

Materials: 1 paper plate, tissue paper
markers, string, hole punch

Directions: Cut the inner section out of the plate. Decorate the rim with markers. Glue tissue paper streamers to one side.



Punch a hole and tie a piece of string on the other side. Go outside and run to make your kite fly.

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MASK

Materials: 1 paper plate, construction paper
markers or crayons, jumbo craft stick, tape

Directions: Cut holes for eyes out of the plate. (An adult will need to do this.) Let children add detail to the plate to make an animal or person. Tape a jumbo craft stick to the plate so children can hold the mask up to their face.



Hint! Use these for book reports, to act out a story, to dramatize poems, or to enhance songs.

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PURSE

Materials: 1 paper plate, yarn or ribbon
markers, stapler

Directions: Fold the plate in half and staple along the rim. Color with markers or crayons. Punch holes in the sides and tie on yarn or ribbon for a handle.



Cut a slit along the top so notes, tissues, and other goodies can be tucked in the purse.

Adaptation: You can make a doctor bag in a similar way.

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SNAKE

Materials: 1 paper plate
markers, crayons, scissors

Directions: Draw a snake's head on the rim of the plate as shown.
Draw a spiral to the center. Decorate with markers and then cut on the spiral. Hold up by the head and wiggle.



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FISH

Materials: 1 paper plate, brad fastener
markers, crayons, scissors

Directions: Cut a triangle out of the paper plate to make the mouth of the fish. Attach the triangle to the back with the brad fastener to make the tail. Add features with crayons or markers.



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PICTURE FRAME

Materials: 1 paper plate, pipe cleaner
crayons, markers, paint

Directions: Color or paint the rim of the paper plate to look like a picture frame. Let children draw a picture of their family, their house, pet, etc. in the center of the plate.
Punch a hole at the top and use the pipe cleaner for a hanger.



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PINATA

Materials: 2 paper plates, tissue paper, construction paper
candy and small toys, string, stapler

Directions: Staple the 2 plates together leaving a 5" opening at the top. Decorate with construction paper and glue on tissue paper streamers. Insert the candy and toys and staple the opening. Tie a piece of string at the top and attach to the end of a broom or similar pole. Roll up three sheets of newspaper to make a bat to swing at the piñata. Blindfold children and let the fun begin!!!



Adaptations: Use piñatas for holiday parties by making pumpkins, turkeys, leprechauns, etc. from the plates.

WEAVING

Materials: paper plate, scissors, yarn

Directions: Cut slits around the rim of the paper plate. Children can weave the yarn through the slits to make designs.



Adaptations: Use black yarn and it will look like a spider web. Attach a plastic spider ring to the end of the yarn.

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VISOR

Materials: paper plate, markers, hole punch, string

Directions: Cut a crescent shape out of the paper plate similar to the one shown. Let the children decorate with markers. Hole punch the ends and tie a piece of string to each hole. Place on the child's head and adjust.



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BOOK

Materials: 2 plates, paper, scissors, markers, crayons
glue, stapler, magazines, grocery advertisements

Directions: Using the plate as a pattern, cut circles out of the paper.



Let children cut food they like to eat out of the magazines and glue on the paper. Decorate a plate for the cover and add a title such as “Let’s Eat!” or “Good Food.”

Staple at the top to make a book.

Adaptation: Make a “Circle Book” by drawing or cutting objects that are circles out of a magazine.

PUZZLE GAME

Materials: paper plates, scissors, markers, crayons

Directions: This is a great self-checking game. Cut each plate in half like a puzzle. Write an uppercase letter on one half and the lowercase letter on the other half. Mix up the pieces and then challenge children to put the puzzles together.



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