

Raising Readers Backpack

Congratulations! By checking out and using this backpack from **Capital Area District Libraries**, you are helping your child develop important literacy skills. Although these skills are very important, they can also be fun to learn.

In fact, every time you use one of these five simple practices with your child, you are helping him or her develop into a lifelong learner: **reading, writing, talking, singing** and **playing**.

Here are some ideas for using the items in this backpack:

- Read the books together, pointing out new words as you go along.
- Write some of the letters or words you see in the book.
- Talk with your child about the items in the kit. Ask what he or she thinks the stories might be about.
- Listen to the music on the CD or DVD.
- After finishing one of the stories, imagine together what might happen next.

Read • Write • Talk • Sing • Play

This tip sheet stays with the backpack. For a copy of your own, visit any CADL branch or cadl.org/raisingreaders.

Please return backpack to checkout desk.

MUSIC

BACKPACK ACTIVITIES

Play the track “Play Your Instruments and Make a Pretty Sound.” Listen to the directions in the song and follow them using the instruments in your backpack.

Pick your favorite instrument and play along with any song of your choosing—whether it is on the radio, a CD, or in some other format.

Sing a nursery rhyme together. Try singing the rhyme while your little one plays an instrument.

Make a shaker using these instructions from projectsforkids.com:

Create a musical shaker similar to a maraca or an African shaker. A shaker makes a pleasant sound and is excellent for setting a rhythm with less emphasis than a drum.

Materials needed:

- Cardboard tube from a paper towel, toilet paper or gift wrap roll
 - Rice or dried beans
 - Tape
 - Sheet of paper
 - Crayons, paint, markers or colored pencils
1. Take a cardboard tube of any length and seal one end with paper and tape.
 2. Fill the tube about one quarter full with dry rice or beans.
 3. Seal the other end with paper and tape.
 4. Now decorate the shaker with bright colors and designs.
 5. Shake.

