



Let's Make a Kazoot!

Homemade Fun: It's easy to make your own kazoot—all you need is a cardboard tube (one from a roll of toilet paper or paper towels works well), crayons or markers, some waxed paper, scissors, a rubber band, and a healthy dose of creativity!

Play Along: Start by encouraging your child to decorate her cardboard tube with crayons, markers, or both. Then cut a square of waxed paper large enough to completely cover one end of the tube, and secure it with a rubber band. Her kazoot is now complete! To play, she simply hums into the open end (remind her not to blow, or she might blow off the waxed paper). Let your child practice playing long and short notes, high and low notes, loud and soft notes, then put on "I Have a Kazoot" and let her play along to the music. (Don't forget to make a kazoot for you, too!)

As If Having Fun Isn't Enough: Your child's new kazoot is one example of a wind instrument. As its name implies, a wind instrument produces sound by utilizing wind (or, in this case, breath). When your child plays her kazoot, she's increasing her oral motor function, breath support, and lung capacity. She's developing pitch-making skills when she practices making different notes, and strengthening her listening skills and concentration when she plays along to other music. And, of course, making her own kazoot helps your child develop fine motor skills and encourages creativity.

Contributed by David Symons *adaptive piano teacher, Kindermusik instructor, and music therapist* earthSHINE pediatric therapy, Inc., Augusta, GA



Kindermusik®