

🎵 Montessori Music Activity: Exploring Rhythm with Latin Beats



Music is an essential part of Hispanic culture, from lively salsa and merengue to soothing lullabies and folk songs. This activity invites children to explore rhythm, movement, and cultural expression through hands-on music-making. It's interactive, inclusive, and adaptable for different age groups.

What You'll Need:

- A speaker or instrument to play Hispanic music (salsa, merengue, cumbia, or mariachi songs are great options).
 - Simple percussion instruments: maracas, rhythm sticks, hand drums, or tambourines.
 - A basket labeled *Instrumentos de Música* to keep materials organized.
 - Optional: scarves or ribbons for free movement.
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Steps for Children:

1. **Introduce the Music:** Play a short clip of a lively Hispanic song. Invite the children to listen carefully—can they hear the beat? Is it fast or slow?
 2. **Feel the Rhythm:** Clap along to the beat slowly, then invite the children to join.
 3. **Instrument Exploration:** Let each child choose an instrument. Demonstrate how to play it respectfully, then encourage them to play along with the music.
 4. **Movement Connection:** Invite children to move with the rhythm—shake maracas in time, tap sticks together, or sway with scarves.
 5. **Call and Response:** Create a simple rhythm (e.g., clap-clap-pause) and have the children echo it back. Then invite them to create their own rhythms for the group to follow.
 6. **Closing Circle:** End with a calmer traditional lullaby or folk song, encouraging children to hum or sway gently.
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Learning Benefits:

- Develops auditory discrimination (hearing fast vs. slow, loud vs. soft).
- Strengthens fine and gross motor coordination through instrument use and movement.
- Encourages self-expression and creativity.
- Builds cultural awareness by connecting children to Hispanic music traditions.
- Fosters community as children play and move together in harmony



Montessori Tip:

Model first, then step back. Allow children to experiment freely with instruments and movement, discovering rhythm on their own. Emphasize respect for materials by showing how to return instruments to the *Instrumentos de Música* basket when finished.

