

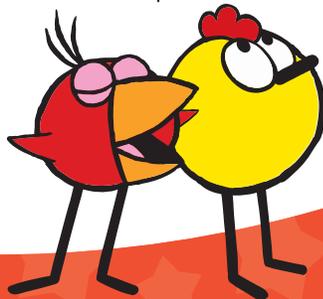
# Hearing

## How can so much fun teach STEM skills?

Sensory exploration helps children build the basic science skills of observing what is happening and using words to describe what they sense. Hearing helps us gain a sense of our surroundings. It also facilitates communication.

### Try these Activities!

- **Deer Ears.** Deer and other animals are able to move their ears to better assess their environment for dangers. Have children cup their hands behind their ears facing forward and then move their cupped hands in front of their ears facing back. Can they hear a difference?
- **Twist 'n' shout.** Compare *loud* and *quiet* sounds by having children stand and sing a song at normal volume. Have them "twist" down in a crouch and sing the song in a whisper. As they "twist" back to standing, have them increase the volume.
- **Clap clap.** In circle time, start a short sequence of clapping (clap, clap, pause, clap, clap, clap) and pass it along to each child one at a time so that everyone in the circle has a chance to clap. Repeat it again with a different rhythm and notice if the group finds it easier the second time around. Try the same pattern again, only this time make it *faster* or *slower*.
- **Match the sound.** Find several matching containers with covers so no one can see what's inside. Place a few noise-making items in each container, such as beans in container 1, cotton balls in container 2, and toothpicks in container 3. Put a sample of each item in a line, and have children shake each container to see if they can match the sound to the object.



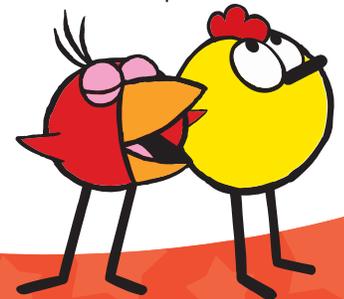
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## Tell Children:

- **“What did you hear?”** Encourage the children to use words to distinguish sounds.
- **“Would you like me to repeat it for you?”** Help children remember the clapping rhythm by repeating it.

## Tell Parents:

Today we explored our sense of hearing. Play a listening game by identifying some special sounds you hear at home.

## Brain-Building Connection:

Both listening to music and making music build the brain. These activities have a positive impact on expressive and receptive language, speech patterns, and gross motor skills.

## Read All About It:

*I Make Music* by Eloise Greenfield

*Follow the Drinking Gourd* by Jeanette Winter

*Come On, Rain* by Karen Hesse

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