

Cabasa



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By Denise Ondishko

Tune –Tisket a Tasket

BBCD#4, Track #48

Sing this song to help children remember how to play the cabasa. First model this for the children: Flip one hand over so that the palm is facing up and the hand is relaxed. Hold the cabasa in the other hand by its handle and TWIST YOUR WRIST to rub it gently against the palm of the overturned hand. Next have children take turns holding the Cabasa and twisting their wrist to rub the beads against your open hand. This helps children learn to use a twisting motion (and pressure) from the hand that holds the Cabasa, rather than use the other hand to squeeze the beads against the metal. (This will eventually cause the beads to separate from the head of the cabasa and you will have to put it all back together!) Finally, assist children in rubbing it against their own hands.

*If you only have the newer **plastic** cabasa, the children do need to have a more firm grip on the different colored rings as well as use the twisting motion with their other hand. In this case, just change the word “beads” to “rings.”*

Cabasa, cabasa,
I can play cabasa!
I rub the beads (rings) against my hand,
And I can play cabasa!

Once the children learn this song and are able to make the scraping sound, have them play it while singing the “ch ch ch” part of “Brush Your Teeth!”