

Hot potato!

Learning opportunities

- * Exploring and experimenting with sounds and rhythms
- * Cooperating and following instructions in order to play a group game
- * Listening and concentration skills

Links to the Early Learning Goals

- * Expressive arts and design – Exploring and using media and materials

Also

- * Communication and language – Listening and attention, Understanding

Equipment and resources

A tambourine.



Activity

Invite children to sit in a circle to play a game as a group. Explain that you are going to pretend that the tambourine is a very hot potato and it would burn your fingers if you held it for too long, so it needs to be passed around the circle quickly. As the children pass the tambourine around, encourage them to join in with the rhyme, 'Hot potato, pass it around, hot potato, pass it around, hot potato, pass it around, get rid of that hot potato!' Whoever is holding the tambourine each time the end of the rhyme is reached takes a turn to play it. Encourage children to find new ways of playing the tambourine and ask the other children to describe how it is being played.

Extension

When the singing stops, the child holding the tambourine is encouraged to play a certain number of beats. Other children can count and say how many beats they think were played.

Discussion

Talk with the children about different ways of playing the tambourine. Describe the different types and qualities of sound that you can make and how it makes you feel when you play the tambourine quickly or slowly, loudly or quietly.