

Shake it Up!

Objective: to teach and reinforce numbers in Spanish using kinesthetic and verbal activities.

Las Maracas



There are many uses for maracas! Counting and making rhythm is a great practice for fluency, pronunciation, and number recognition.

This activity is appropriate for all ages and can be easily adapted for the age and ability level of the children.

- **Shake maracas and count out loud** to the desired number. Count on the beat of the maraca. Change your voice and commands so that at first you *count 'en voz alta' – in a loud voice, and then 'en voz baja'- in a quiet voice, or ' muy rápido-very fast, muy despacio- slowly'*.
- **Create rhythms** with the maracas and count aloud. Model for the child and then have them repeat after you.
Ex. Uno, dos, dos.... uno, dos, dos, etc.
- **Count backwards.** Choose a number to begin at and count backwards as you shake the maracas. This is a great way to take numbers out of context and challenge kids that already know how to count.
- **Mix in various commands** and have kids count while holding *'maracas para arriba'- maracas up high , or " maracas para atrás" – maracas behind, etc. etc* has a turn to count and shake maracas.