



Make It Work!

Create Sound Shakers

When something is not working the way you want it to, you can **check your steps** and **make it work!** This **computational thinking skill** is a creative way of thinking that can help children solve problems in more organized ways. Try the ideas below to practice these skills with your child.



Total time needed: 20–30 minutes



Watch the Story

Don't Dilly-Dally When You Turtle-Tally

Ask your child:

- What problem were the monkeys trying to solve?
- Why couldn't they keep track of the turtles?
- What did they have to change to make sure they counted the turtles correctly?



Do the Activity

Create Sound Shakers

Follow the directions on the next page to do the activity. You'll need:

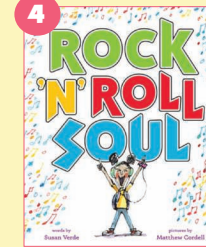
- 2 small containers with lids that are not see-through
- Hard and soft materials to fill the shakers:
 - Hard materials: beans, macaroni, coins, or buttons
 - Soft materials: balls of paper, pom-poms, cotton balls, string, or tissues



Watch the Music Video

What's Going On?

Something is scaring the monkeys at bedtime. What could it be? Watch them **check their steps** and figure out what's making the spooky shadows.



Read a Book (Optional)

Rock 'n' Roll Soul

by Susan Verde
Illustrated by Matthew Cordell

Ask your child:

- What are some of the things that the girl uses to create instruments and make music?
- If you could make another instrument like the Sound Shakers, what would you use to make it? What do you think it would sound like?

Do the Activity

Create Sound Shakers

You and your child will each make a shaker. Do both shakers make a lot of noise? If they don't, **check your steps** to find the problem, and **make it work** by coming up with a way to fix it. You can use these steps to make almost anything better!



Introduce the Activity

(see materials on first page)

1. Give your child a container and set out all the materials. Say:
 - *Let's make shakers that are loud and noisy when we shake them.*
 - *What are you going to do to make your shaker?*

2. As your child makes her shaker, make your own. Fill yours with only soft materials so your shaker doesn't make noise (like cotton balls, tissues, or string).



3. When you're both done, shake them. Ask:
 - *How do our shakers sound?*
 - *Does mine sound the same as yours? What do you think is different?*

Check Your Steps!

1. Tell your child:
 - *Let's **check our steps** to see if we can figure out why our shakers sound different.*
 - *Let's compare how we made the shakers. How did you make yours? What's different about the way I made mine?*
2. When your child has some ideas, help her open both shakers and see what things are inside.

Make It Work!

1. Tell your child:
 - *Let's **make it work!** What can you change about my shaker so it's as loud as yours?*
2. When your child has finished making your shaker loud and noisy, remind her of what she did:
 - *You **checked your steps** by listening carefully and comparing what was in our shakers. Then you thought of a way to **make it work** so both shakers are loud.*

TIP: More ways to practice

Your shakers are a lot like an instrument called the maraca. Have your child make two more maracas and shake them to music. Before she starts, ask your child to think about what she wants the maracas to sound like. If they don't sound that way, have her **check her steps** to figure out what to change and **make it work!**



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