Activity: Making drums

Objectives:
- Decision-making and following directions
- Creativity
- Developing fine motor skills

Materials:
- Empty cardboard containers (eg. Quakers oatmeal canister)
- Dowels
- Tempera Paint
- Paint tray
- Paint brushes
- Bowls
- Paper towel
- Smocks
- Protective table covering

Methods:

Facilitator Preparation

1. Cover the work surface with a protective material.
2. On plates or paint trays, portion an appropriate amount of each color of tempera paint for pairs to use. Each pair should have their own paint.
3. Fill bowls halfway with water. Each pair should have a water bowl and a paper towel to remove excess water from paintbrushes.
4. Each pair should have at least two paint brushes.
5. Pair each adult with a child.
6. Once paired give each participant a smock to put on before sitting down.
7. Pass out an empty canister to each pair once sitting down at the table.
8. Let the paint dry and pass back out to participants.
9. Let the pairs take turns hitting the drum, then get everybody together in a circle and see what kind of music they can make.

Intergenerational Participants

1. Put on your smock before sitting down at the table.
2. Discuss with your partner how to decorate the drum.
3. Wet a paint brush, dip in paint and take turns with your partner painting the canister. The person not painting should help hold the box.
4. Make sure to clean the brush between different colors of paint. Remove excess water by dabbing the brush on the paper towel.

5. Once the paint has dried, take turns hitting the drum with the dowel and see what you different sounds you can make!

Special Considerations

- Encourage discussion between pairs.
- Make sure the adults are helping the children paint correctly. This includes cleaning the brushes properly between paint colors and having the right amount of paint on the brush.

Key Conversation/ Facilitation Questions

- Where have you heard drums before?
- What are some other types of percussion instruments?
- What is a beat? A rhythm?
- What other instruments can you play?

Extensions and Themed Activities

Horizontal extension

- You can put different objects inside the drum to see how it affects the sound.