



arts on the horizon
Theatre for children 0-6 years old in Northern Virginia

educational guide

The background features several hand-drawn, circuit-like elements in blue, orange, and green. These include a blue zig-zag line at the top, a green rectangular frame on the right, an orange zig-zag line on the left, and a blue zig-zag line at the bottom. A blue bolt and nut are also depicted as part of the design.

NU T AND BOLT

Written & Directed

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Get to Know the Show



Show Description

Nutt and Bolt are robot rivals. They spend their days using the random junkyard objects around them (and on them!) in games of skill and sound, rallying their wee friends, the audience, for support. As the competition builds to a frenzied pinnacle, Nutt and Bolt realize that by working together, they can make something even more wonderful than they could on their own! Together, sounds become stories, notes become music, and the world becomes full of possibility.

Through props, costumes, and sets created entirely out of upcycled objects, *Nutt and Bolt* reinforces a child's transformative power of imagination and their own ability to make ordinary objects into something extraordinary.

Themes

working together and cooperation, the importance of conservation, rhythm and music, the power of imagination, cause & effect, and early science/mathematics.

Conservation Conversation

(Cognitive Development & Comprehension, Language Control & Speech, Auditory Learning)

What happens to the things we throw away? Start talking with your students about waste and conservation. Begin by looking at the trash cans or recycling bins in your classroom. How do we know what should be recycled and what is trash?

Use a chart to graph the different kinds of trash in your room! Put a tally mark on the chart next to the way they traveled this morning. Work together to count how much paper, aluminum, plastic, and other kinds of waste are in your room.

Words to Know

- **Reduce:** to make less waste and trash, such as buying products with less packaging or using fabric shopping bags instead of paper or plastic
- **Recycle:** to make waste into something useful, such as melting aluminum cans to then create more things made from aluminum
- **Reuse:** to use a package or product again for the same or similar purpose, such as refilling a plastic water bottle or using a glass jar to store craft supplies.
- **Upcycle:** to change waste into something of new or better value – something creative or beautiful!
- **Waste:** garbage or other unwanted material



Before You See the Show

Talk about Machines

(Cognitive Development & Comprehension, Language Control & Speech, Auditory Learning)

Nutt and Bolt are robots. They're music making machines! Before you see the show, talk with your students about machines. Begin by asking them what a machine is. *Can you name a machine in our classroom?* The computer, projector, pencil sharpener, and stapler are all machines! A machine is any item with different parts that work together to do a job.

Let's Imagine: Soundscape

(Creative Expression, Fine/Gross Motor Development)

Nutt and Bolt features lots of sound. Prepare your students to hear this show by thinking about the sounds in their world. Invite students to name/describe sounds they might hear on a busy street. As your students offer suggestions of sounds, practice them as a group. *Can we all honk like a car horn?* Once the group has brainstormed a number of ideas, ask for volunteers to make different sounds at the same time to turn your room into a busy street! You might ask students to close their eyes and imagine they are outside in a busy city.

Create soundscapes with these suggestions or your own:

- Farm
- Rainforest
- In your Classroom
- In a Factory

Robot Painting

(Creative Expression, Fine/Gross Motor Development)

- Aluminum Foil (cut into big squares)
- Long Rectangle (3-4" longer than the foil)
- Circles (for eyes)
- Small Rectangle (for mouth)
- Glue Paint



Begin by having students glue the aluminum foil to the large rectangle. It should sit in the middle, leaving construction paper sticking out of either side (like robot ears). It's okay if it's not exactly in the middle; it gives each robot character! Next, invite your students to paint their foil. They can mix and swirl the paint to make their own patterns. Once each robot is covered in paint, have students glue on the circles for eyes and the small rectangles for the mouth. Once dry, hang in your room for a robot gallery.

Painting with Music

(Creative Expression, Auditory Development, Listening)

Extend your painting experience by playing music while your students are painting. Invite them to pick colors based on the mood of the song or paint along to the beat.

Upcycled Sound!

(Creative Expression, Fine/Gross Motor Development, Listening and Auditory Development)

Make your own homemade band with these upcycled instruments!

Plastic Bottle Shaker

- Plastic Water Bottle (with cap)
- Beads, Beans, Glitter, Sand, etc. (to fill bottle)
- Funnels (you can make your own out of card stock)
- Spoons or Scoops
- Glue

Set up a station with different materials to fill a bottle. Use a funnel to fill their bottle with beads, beans, glitter, sand, or anything else that might make noise when shaken. Fill bottles no more than a 1/4 of the way for the best sound. Put the cap on to test the sound. Then empty or fill to adjust sound. Once satisfied, use glue to seal the cap on your bottle. Shake along to your favorite song!



Bottle Cap Cymbals

- Corrugated Cardboard (cut into 5-1/2" by 1-1/2" rectangles)
- 2 Bottle Caps (per each piece of cardboard)
- Glue

Fold cardboard in half. Fill bottle caps with glue, make sure to fill it completely full, almost over-full, so the glue will touch the cardboard. Please one cap on either side of the cardboard. Double check that the caps will touch when clapped together. Let dry overnight (optional: place a book or heavy object on after they have dried for a few hours). Once dry, you can paint them or play right away!



Aluminum Can Drums

- 5-8 Aluminum Cans (a variety of sizes and types)
- Drumsticks, Chopsticks, or Dowel Rods

Clean, rinse, and remove labels before you paint/decorate the cans. Once dry, turn upside down and play with chopsticks, drumsticks, or dowel rods!

Empty Box Harp

- Empty Cereal, Cracker, or Tissue Box
- Rubber Bands (a variety of sizes and widths)
- Scissors or Knife
- Masking Tape

If using a cereal or cracker box, cut a hole in one side (like in a tissue box). Stretch rubber bands over the box, so they cross the hole in the top. You might tie knots in rubber bands to make them tighter. If the rubber bands are sliding, you can secure them on the bottom or sides with masking tape. Decorate or paint and play a song!

After You See the Show

Discussion: Reviewing the Show

(Comprehension, Appropriate Response, Cognitive Development, Speech Skills, Listening)

Start with an open-ended conversation about *Nutt and Bolt* to practice memory, reflection, and articulation. Let the students direct the discussion and go deeper into moments towards which they gravitate.

- Tell me about the show.
- What happened in the show?
- Who were the characters in the show?
- What sounds did you hear?
- Did you help Nutt and Bolt? How?

Let's Move: Rhythm

(Creative Expression, Fine/Gross Motor Development, Listening and Auditory Development)

Nutt and Bolt make sounds together in the play. Practice listening and rhythm with your students with this simple chant. Play a drum or drum on the ground at different speeds as you chant:

Move your feet, feet, feet to the beat, beat, beat of the drum, drum, drum!

Repeat with different speeds or rhythms. Once your students get the hang of it, try moving in different ways (clap your hands, wave your arms, run around).

Recommended Reading

(Comprehension, Cognitive Development, Listening, Early Literacy)

If you and your little ones enjoyed *Nutt and Bolt*, you might like these books about robot friends and conservation:

[Don't Throw That Away!](#) by Lara Bergen and Betsy Snyder

[Michael Recycle](#) by Ellie Bethel and Alexandra Colombo

[Recycle! A Handbook for Kids](#) by Gail Gibbons

[The Robot Book](#) by Heather Brown

[Boy and Bot](#) by Ame Dyckman and Dan Yaccarino



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