a script from

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The Little Drummers & Dancers

TO
REMOVE
WATERMARK
AT
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The Little Drummers & Dancers

PURCHASE

The Little Drummers & Dancers is a joyful, music-driven 20-minute preschool Christmas skit that turns the classic nativity visit into a rhythmic celebration. Designed for ages 3–6, this play lets children use rhythm sticks, simple dance movements, and scarves to offer their "gifts" of music and motion to baby Jesus.

Part 1 – The Rhythm of Christmas

SCRIPT

In Part 1, preschoolers arrive at the stable as a cheerful group of little drummers and dancers. Guided by two friendly narrators, they learn simple beats, tap out gentle rhythms, and swirl their scarves to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each movement is easy, repeatable, and low-stress—perfect for young performers who need confidence and structure. Through playful choreography and narration, the children discover that their joy, energy, and praise can be gifts to Jesus just as meaningful as gold, frankincense, or myrrh.

TO

Part 2 – Sharing the Song with the World

REMOVE

Part 2 expands the celebration by teaching the children how to "share the good news." Drummers practice a "Go Tell" rhythm (lap–floor–air–clap), while dancers learn two symbolic movements: *Shine* (twirling scarves like bright lights) and *Show* (offering scarves forward). Together, they perform these patterns in a lively interactive sequence that invites the audience to join through smiles and claps. The focus shifts from performing at the manger to spreading Jesus' love to others, helping kids understand that worship continues beyond the Christmas story.

WATERMARK

Why This Skit Shines

- Perfect for high-energy preschoolers
- No memorization required
- Rhythm sticks and scarves make the performance fun and visually engaging
- Gentle narration keeps the story meaningful but simple
- Encourages confidence, movement, and early musical expression

AT

The Little Drummers & Dancers delivers a sweet blend of music, movement, and ministry—an ideal choice for churches, preschools, and family Christmas programs seeking a heartwarming performance with minimal stress and maximum joy.

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THE LITTLE DRUMMERS & DANCERS

A Preschool Christmas Rhythm Play (One-Part Script)

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Length: ~20 minutes

Cast: 10–20 preschoolers

Style: Musical, rhythmic, movement-based

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OVERVIEW

Summary

In *The Little Drummers & Dancers*, preschoolers become a joyful group of "little drummers and dancers" who travel to visit baby Jesus. Using rhythm sticks instead of real drums and colorful scarves for dancing, they offer their music, movement, and hearts as gifts. With simple narration, easy call-and-response lines, and gentle choreography, this playful script helps young children understand that they can worship Jesus with their whole selves—hands, feet, and hearts.

Why It Works for Preschoolers

- Kids don't need to memorize long lines—most lines are repeated or echo-style.
- They get to move, tap, and dance (perfect for high-energy groups).
- Clear, simple sections help teachers rehearse in short practices.
- The message is simple: *"Jesus, we give You our praise."*

What You Need

- Rhythm sticks (or wooden spoons / safe dowels) – one pair per child
- Light scarves or ribbons for dancing (1–2 per dancer)
- Simple nativity: manger, baby doll (Jesus), Mary, Joseph
- Basic "road" made of cloth or tape, and a big "star" prop
- Soft percussion / Christmas instrumental music (optional backing tracks)
- Party-style or festive clothing, or simple shirts in matching colors

CAST SUGGESTIONS

- **Narrator 1 & 2** (adults or responsible teens – carry most of the story)
- **Mary & Joseph** (2 preschoolers or older children)
- **Little Drummers** (4–10 preschoolers with rhythm sticks)
- **Little Dancers** (4–10 preschoolers with scarves – some children can be both)
- **Star Helper(s)** (1–2 children holding a large star and "guiding" the group)
- **Music Helper / Adult Leader** (on the side, giving cues and modeling motions)

You can combine roles depending on how many children you have. For example, everyone can be both a drummer and a dancer at different times.

SETTING

A simple church stage or open area.

- One side: a small "road" (cloth strip) where the children begin.
- Center: open space for drumming and dancing.
- Other side: nativity corner with Mary, Joseph, and the manger.
- A large star hangs above the nativity or is carried by a child.

ONE-PART SCRIPT

Scene 1 – Waking Up the Rhythm

(Soft drum-like background music plays—can be a simple instrumental. Lights come up on a group of preschoolers sitting or kneeling in a semicircle. They each hold rhythm sticks in their laps. Scarves are nearby.)

NARRATOR 1 (warm, excited):

Welcome, everyone, to our special Christmas celebration… *The Little Drummers & Dancers*!

Tonight, our preschoolers will tell the story of Jesus' birth…

using their hands, their feet, their drums, and their dancing feet!

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NARRATOR 2 (smiling):

They're not big musicians.

They're not famous dancers.

They're just little kids who love Jesus…

and that is more than enough.

(Narrator 2 turns toward the children.)

NARRATOR 2:

Drummers and dancers… are you ready?

(Adult leader whispers, "Say yes!" Children respond.)

CHILDREN (ALL):

Yes!

NARRATOR 1:

Let's wake up our rhythm sticks.

Can you tap-tap them on the floor?

(Adult Leader models: tap-tap… pause. Kids follow.)

NARRATOR 2:

Tap-tap on the floor…

CHILDREN (echo, tapping softly):

Tap-tap!

NARRATOR 1:

Tap-tap in the air…

(They tap gently in the air.)

CHILDREN:

Tap-tap!

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NARRATOR 2:

Tap-tap for Jesus…

CHILDREN (smiling):

Tap-tap for Jesus!

(Music swells slightly. Children tap a simple slow pattern: tap-tap… pause… tap-tap… pause.)

Scene 2 – The Star Appears

(A child "STAR HELPER" enters holding a large star on a stick. They stand to one side, a little higher, held by an adult if needed.)

NARRATOR 1:

One quiet night… far away from here…

a tiny baby was born in Bethlehem.

His name was… *(pause; children fill in)*

CHILDREN (prompted):

Jesus!

NARRATOR 2:

In the sky, God hung a bright star.

It was like a heavenly spotlight saying,

"Look here! God's Son has come!"

(STAR HELPER raises the star high. Drummers look up.)

NARRATOR 1:

Our little drummers and dancers see the star too.

They don't have camels. They don't have crowns.

But they have something special—

their rhythm and their dancing!

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NARRATOR 2 (to kids):

When you see the star…

can you tap your sticks softly like this?

(Leader models a gentle pattern: one tap on lap, one tap on floor.)

NARRATOR 2:

Tap on your lap… tap on the floor…

like little heartbeats walking toward Bethlehem.

(Children follow, tapping slowly in time. Star moves slowly toward center stage as if "leading" them.)

Scene 3 – The Journey Begins

(Music shifts into a gentle "walking beat"—can be a simple drum loop or soft percussion.)

NARRATOR 1:

Our little drummers are ready to find baby Jesus.

They follow the star… one step at a time.

NARRATOR 2 (gently coaching):

Drummers and dancers, stand up very slowly.

Hold your sticks and your scarves.

We're going on a journey!

(Adult Leader helps children stand and line up behind the Star Helper, forming a little parade.)

NARRATOR 1:

Let's practice walking to the manger.

Not too fast, not too slow…

just like a gentle drum beat.

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NARRATOR 2 (calling lightly):

Step… tap… step… tap…

(Leader models: walk one step, then small tap of sticks; repeat. Children follow as they begin to walk along the "road" toward center stage.)

CHILDREN (repeating softly as they go):

Step… tap… step… tap…

NARRATOR 1:

As they walk, they whisper to each other.

(Leader prompts a few simple lines from kids. They don't all have to say them loudly—just cute, gentle.)

DRUMMER CHILD 1:

I'm bringing my music to Jesus!

DRUMMER CHILD 2:

I want to play for Him!

DANCER CHILD 1 (waving scarf):

I will dance for Jesus!

DANCER CHILD 2:

I can't wait to see the baby!

(They continue walking until they reach the open space in the middle; they stop in a semicircle facing the nativity side, still following the star.)

Scene 4 – Practice Gifts for the King

(Star pauses. Music softens.)

NARRATOR 2:

Before they reach Bethlehem,

our little drummers and dancers decide to practice their "gifts."

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They don't bring gold, frankincense, or myrrh.

They bring something different…

their praise.

NARRATOR 1 (to kids):

Let's show everyone how you can praise Jesus

with your *hands* and your *feet*.

Drummers, hold your sticks ready.

Dancers, hold your scarves high.

(Leader helps them prepare.)

4A – Drummers' Practice

NARRATOR 2:

First, the drummers practice.

We'll do three special rhythms.

NARRATOR 1 (simple, clear):

Rhythm 1 – "Thank You, Jesus" beat.

Tap-tap on your lap,

then tap-tap in the air.

(Leader models: lap-lap, air-air. Children follow.)

NARRATOR 1 (counting):

Ready?

1… 2… 3…

(Children tap the pattern 4 times.)

NARRATOR 2 (softly to audience):

Each little tap is like a tiny "thank You"

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from their hearts.

NARRATOR 1:

Rhythm 2 – "We Love You" beat.

Tap once on your lap,

once on the floor,

then freeze.

(Leader models: lap, floor, freeze.)

NARRATOR 1 (to kids):

Let's try it…

(They repeat 4 times. On "freeze," they hold still dramatically—very cute.)

NARRATOR 2:

Rhythm 3 – "Joyful" beat.

This time, we tap fast… but quietly…

like happy raindrops.

(Leader models a quicker, soft tapping on lap.)

NARRATOR 2:

Little drummers,

let your sticks dance!

(Short burst of gentle fast tapping, then stop on cue.)

4B – Dancers' Practice

(Music shifts into a light, flowing sound. Drummers hold sticks still; dancers step forward slightly.)

NARRATOR 1:

Now it's time for the dancers.

They don't dance to be fancy.

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They dance to say, “We love You, Jesus.”

NARRATOR 2 (to kids):

Dancers, can you show us

three little moves?

DANCERS (ALL, echoing):

Yes!

NARRATOR 1:

Move 1 – “Baby Rock” move.

Hold your scarf like a baby in your arms,

and rock side to side.

(Dancers cradles scarves like babies and rock gently.)

NARRATOR 2:

Beautiful…

just like Mary rocking baby Jesus.

NARRATOR 1:

Move 2 – “Star Shine” move.

Lift your scarves high in the air

and wave them like shining stars.

(Dancers wave scarves above their heads.)

NARRATOR 2:

Lovely stars for the newborn King.

NARRATOR 1:

Move 3 – “Joy Jump” move.

Hold your scarf in one hand.

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Do tiny, gentle jumps in place—

happy jumps for Jesus.

(They do tiny bounces—leader reminds them: "Gentle, not too high.")

NARRATOR 2:

Wonderful!

Now you're ready to bring your gifts

to the manger.

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Scene 5 – Bethlehem Comes into View

(Star begins to move slowly again toward the nativity side. Mary & Joseph take their places by the manger. Soft Christmas instrumental plays—"Away in a Manger" or similar.)

NARRATOR 1:

At last, Bethlehem is near.

Mary and Joseph are tired,

but their hearts are full of love.

In a simple stable…

in a simple manger…

the most wonderful baby in the world has been born.

(Mary pretends to hold baby Jesus and then gently lays the doll in the manger. Joseph stands protectively nearby.)

NARRATOR 2:

Our little drummers and dancers

see the star stop over the stable.

STAR HELPER (simple line, prompted):

Here… is… Jesus.

(Star stops and holds the star high above the manger.)

NARRATOR 1 (softly):

Drummers and dancers,

this is the moment you've been walking toward.

Let's tiptoe closer…

very quietly.

(Children tiptoe closer, forming a semicircle around the manger area. Drummers are in one row, dancers in another, everyone facing the manger.)

Scene 6 – Kneeling Hearts, Gentle Hands

(Music becomes very soft and gentle—almost like a lullaby.)

NARRATOR 2:

Sometimes the best way to honor a King

is not with noise…

but with stillness.

NARRATOR 1 (to kids):

Little drummers and dancers,

can you kneel down or sit criss-cross

and place your sticks and scarves gently on the floor?

(Leader helps children kneel or sit in a reverent pose, facing the manger.)

NARRATOR 2:

Let's look at baby Jesus…

and take a quiet moment.

(Short 5–10 second pause. This can be very sweet if kids are coached.)

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NARRATOR 1:

Jesus didn't come with trumpets

or big parades.

He came small…

He came gentle…

He came so we would know

that God loves us

right where we are.

NARRATOR 2:

And even our smallest gifts—

tiny hands,

little feet,

baby-sized praise—

matter to Him.

(Pause briefly.)

NARRATOR 1 (to kids):

If you love Jesus,

can you whisper, "I love You, Jesus"?

CHILDREN (whisper):

I love You, Jesus.

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Scene 7 – Gifts of Rhythm and Dance

(Music swells a bit—something calm but hopeful. Children pick up their sticks and scarves again.)

NARRATOR 2:

Now it's time

for the little drummers and dancers

to offer their gifts.

They don't have money.

They don't have big presents.

But they do have… praise.

7A – Drummers' Gift

NARRATOR 1 (to kids):

Little drummers,

stand up very slowly

and hold your sticks over your heart.

(Drummers stand; dancers remain kneeling or sitting, watching.)

NARRATOR 2:

This is your gift:

you will play

a **Love Song for Jesus**

using your sticks.

NARRATOR 1:

We'll play three short patterns all together.

Each pattern is a different "thank You."

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Pattern 1 – "Thank You for Coming"

NARRATOR 1:

Tap gently on your lap,

like a soft heartbeat.

(Children tap lap-lap-lap-lap, slowly.)

DRUMMERS (prompted, speak softly as they tap):

Thank You, Jesus…

Thank You, Jesus…

Pattern 2 – "Thank You for Loving Us"

NARRATOR 2:

Tap once on the floor

and once in the air…

(Tap floor, then air.)

NARRATOR 2 (coaching):

Floor… air… floor… air…

DRUMMERS (speaking softly):

You love us…

You love us…

Pattern 3 – "Joy for Jesus"

NARRATOR 1:

Now fast and quiet

on your lap—

joyful little raindrops of praise.

(Children tap quickly but softly. Leader gives a sign to stop.)

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NARRATOR 2:

Beautiful, little drummers.

Your rhythm is a gift to the King.

(Drummers gently lower sticks and take one small step back.)

7B – Dancers' Gift

(Music shifts to a gentle, lilting melody. Dancers stand.)

NARRATOR 1:

Little dancers,

now it's your turn.

You will dance

a **Praise Dance for Jesus**.

NARRATOR 2 (to kids):

Remember your three moves:

Baby Rock… Star Shine… Joy Jump.

We'll put them together

like a little song.

NARRATOR 1:

Part 1 – Baby Rock.

Newborn King,

so small and sweet.

Dancers, hold your scarves like a baby

and rock side to side.

(They rock gently for a few counts.)

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NARRATOR 2:

Part 2 – Star Shine.

Look up at the sky.

The star is shining.

Lift your scarves high

and wave them like twinkling stars.

(They raise scarves and wave slowly.)

NARRATOR 1:

Part 3 – Joy Jump.

Now your hearts are happy!

Do tiny, gentle jumps in place,

holding your scarf like a small flag of joy.

(They bounce gently.)

NARRATOR 2:

Wonderful dancing,

little ones.

Jesus sees every step.

He knows every happy jump.

(Dancers step back into line.)

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Scene 8 – All Together Praise

(Music becomes a simple, steady rhythm—easy to move to. All children stand in their semicircle around the manger, holding sticks and scarves.)

NARRATOR 1:

Now…

all together—

drummers and dancers—

we will give Jesus

one last big gift of praise.

NARRATOR 2 (to kids):

We're going to do

a simple pattern:

- **Step** to the side,
- **Tap** your sticks,
- **Wave** your scarves,
- Then say, "We praise You, Jesus!"

We'll do it slowly.

(Leader models: step right, tap sticks once, wave scarf, say line.)

NARRATOR 1:

Ready, everyone?

Here we go.

(They do it 2–3 times, moving gently side to side.)

CHILDREN (each time):

We praise You, Jesus!

(Optional: Have them turn slightly toward the audience on the last time.)

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NARRATOR 2:

You don’t need a big stage

to worship Jesus.

You don’t need a loud voice.

You just need a willing heart.

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Scene 9 – The King Receives Their Gift

(Music slows, becoming softer.)

NARRATOR 1 (to kids):

Let’s take one step closer

to the manger.

(They step closer.)

Now hold your sticks and scarves

gently over your heart…

and look at baby Jesus.

(Children do so.)

NARRATOR 2:

Tonight,

you brought the best gifts you have—

your rhythm…

your movement…

your joy.

And Jesus smiles

when you give Him

your whole heart.

NARRATOR 1 (to kids):

On the count of three,

everyone say together:

“Happy Birthday, Jesus!”

Ready?

1… 2… 3…

CHILDREN (ALL):

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

(This is a perfect photo moment.)

Scene 10 – Closing Blessing & Song

(If your group knows “Happy Birthday, Jesus” or “Away in a Manger,” you can sing here. Otherwise, do a simple chant.)

NARRATOR 2:

Let’s sing a little song

for our King.

(Option A – Sing a real song you choose.)

(Option B – Simple chant below):

NARRATOR 1 (leading):

We love You, Jesus…

CHILDREN (echo):

We love You, Jesus…

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NARRATOR 1:

We dance for You…

CHILDREN:

We dance for You…

NARRATOR 2:

We play for You…

CHILDREN:

We play for You…

NARRATOR 2:

Our hearts are Yours.

CHILDREN:

Our hearts are Yours.

(Music swells gently one last time.)

NARRATOR 1 (to audience):

Thank you for joining

our **Little Drummers & Dancers** tonight.

From our preschoolers to your family…

may the joy of Jesus

fill your hearts this Christmas.

NARRATOR 2:

Because the greatest gift

ever given…

was not a toy…

or a treat…

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but a tiny baby

who came to be our Savior.

NARRATOR 1 (smiling):

Merry Christmas, everyone!

CHILDREN (ALL, waving scarves and sticks carefully):

Merry Christmas!

(Lights fade slowly as music ends. Children keep waving and smiling for photos.)

[END OF PLAY]

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Part 2 – Sharing the Song with the World

NARRATOR 1 (soft, warm):

Our little drummers and dancers

have brought their gifts to Jesus.

They tapped their rhythms…

They danced their joy…

But the story of Christmas

is too good to keep

all to themselves.

NARRATOR 2 (smiling, to children):

Drummers and dancers,

do you think other people

need to hear about Jesus too?

(Adult Leader prompts; children answer.)

CHILDREN (ALL):

Yes!

NARRATOR 1:

Then it's time

to share your song

with the whole world.

(Music slowly changes to something a bit brighter, still gentle.)

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Scene 2.1 – "Go Tell" Rhythm

NARRATOR 2 (to kids):

First, we'll practice

a "Go Tell" rhythm—

a beat that sounds like

walking out to tell others

about Jesus.

Drummers,

can you tap like this?

(Leader models: tap on lap, tap on floor, tap in the air, clap.)

NARRATOR 2:

Lap… floor… air… clap!

(Children copy the pattern.)

NARRATOR 1 (counting):

Let's do it four times together.

Ready? One… two… three… go!

(They repeat the pattern four times.)

CHILDREN (saying words as they tap):

Go… tell… about… Jesus!

Go… tell… about… Jesus!

(They end with a big smile and freeze.)

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Scene 2.2 – "Shine and Show" Dance

(Music shifts into a light, twinkling sound.)

NARRATOR 1:

Dancers,

now it's your turn

to "shine and show"

the love of Jesus.

NARRATOR 2 (to kids):

We'll do two simple moves:

- **Shine:**
  Hold your scarf high
  and twirl slowly in a circle.
- **Show:**
  Hold your scarf out in front
  like you're offering a gift
  to someone who needs Jesus.

(Leader demonstrates while speaking.)

NARRATOR 1:

Dancers,

let's all do "Shine" together.

(They raise scarves and slowly turn.)

NARRATOR 2:

Beautiful!

You look like little lights

in the dark.

Now let's do "Show."

Hold your scarf out in front of you,

like you're saying,

"Here is the love of Jesus!"

(They hold scarves forward.)

NARRATOR 1:

Wonderful.

You're ready to shine

and show His love.

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Scene 2.3 – Inviting the World

(Music softens again. Children stand in a wide semicircle facing the audience, with the manger behind them.)

NARRATOR 2 (to kids):

Now we'll put it all together.

When we say,

"Go tell about Jesus,"

drummers will play their rhythm…

When we say,

"Shine and show His love,"

dancers will move their scarves.

NARRATOR 1 (to audience):

And you—our church family—

can join by smiling,

clapping softly,

or whispering,

“Thank You, Jesus.”

(Short pause.)

NARRATOR 2 (to kids):

Ready, little drummers and dancers?

CHILDREN (ALL):

Ready!

NARRATOR 1:

Go tell about Jesus!

(Drummers do lap–floor–air–clap pattern twice.)

NARRATOR 2:

Shine and show His love!

(Dancers do Shine turn, then Show gesture.)

(Repeat once more if desired.)

NARRATOR 1 (closing):

And so,

our Little Drummers & Dancers

don’t just play for Jesus…

They share His love

with everyone they meet.

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CHILDREN (ALL, together):

We will praise You, Jesus…

and tell others too!

(They wave sticks and scarves gently as the lights fade.)

[END OF PART 2]

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