



★ Early Years Home Learning ★
Confidence, Creativity and Curiosity
Treasure Baskets (ideal for under 3's)



This is best:

Indoors or Outdoors

Materials

You may need:

- Pine cones, wooden dolly pegs, wooden spoons, metal spoons, egg cups, tea strainer, small mirror, small tubs, soft brushes, loofahs, small pieces of voile fabric, kitchen roll tubes, shakers, ribbons, wooden curtain rings.

The basic idea:

Create a treasure basket using interesting objects from around the home for your child to explore, investigate and enjoy. Very young children and babies will explore objects with their mouth therefore it is important that this is considered to ensure safety. Avoid sharp objects and small objects that can easily be swallowed.

Tips to support your child:

- A shallow wide basket the child can reach into is best if you have one. This allows the child to scan across the basket and reach in. Present the treasure basket on the floor with a good clearing around the area. This will give your child the chance to remove objects or explore their use safely as they themselves move around. Sit facing your child and follow their lead.
- Demonstrate banging objects together as well as stacking, rolling, filling, emptying, shaking, squeezing etc. You could play games such as hiding the object under the fabric, or play peekaboo, this could lead to physically playing hide and seek. Take turns with your child and use animation (exaggerated gestures) to help keep your child interested. You can offer the same resources in the treasure basket each day or add maybe one new object at a time for further opportunities to explore.
- When visiting friends and family you could use a drawstring bag to transport your child's favourite items. Encourage your child to help you tidy the objects away.

How this benefits your child:

- Your child will explore and manipulate different sounds, weights, textures through their senses. This provides an opportunity to develop an understanding of how objects relate to one another.
- They can practice over and over again and change things as they go which is important as they develop concentration and problem solving skills required to become creative and independent. They are in fact becoming little scientists.

Make this simpler...

You could start by introducing a few objects that they have seen you using while cooking - a whisk and bowl. Let them play with these as you cook, so they can imitate and observe as you work.

Make this more challenging...

Play a game of i-spy to see if they can find a particular object - try a variety of versions e.g 'I spy something the colour green', 'I spy something starting with the sound s', 'I spy something round'

"The fun is in the journey,
not the end result!"



Top Tip from our Speech and Language Therapy Partners:

Being face to face with your child helps them develop their communication skills.
As the child picks the object out of the basket, name the object either using single words or phrases depending on the child's language level.

