

Treasure Baskets

Something different from Plastic

Lots of toys nowadays are made of plastic. Although plastic can be very colourful, it all feels, smells and tastes the same making it boring and unstimulating to a baby's senses. Have you ever wondered why a baby prefers the box and wrapping to the contents? Probably because it feels better to touch, smells more interesting and can make great sounds when you move it!



Treasure Basket

An ideal age to begin using a Treasure Basket with babies is when they can sit by themselves without any help up until they are about 18 months old. Allow 30 minutes to an hour every day for a baby to explore and play with the Treasure Basket. Try and create a place that has minimal or no other distraction (clear all other toys away).

The Treasure Basket is filled with a variety of objects. They can come from around the house and from natural sources outside. You can continually add to the Treasure Basket, if you have been outside collect things like shells and fir cones. This also helps babies establish strong memories and learn from their experiences. Through handling and exploring these 'things' a baby develops contact with the outside world, and begins to make their own choices and decisions.

Grown-ups

Your role, as the adult, is to step back and allow your baby to explore the objects. Ensure you are near by and be attentive but don't interfere with their play, allow them to come to you and bring objects to you. It may feel like you are doing nothing, but in fact, you are giving your baby a rich, stimulating and exciting experience that will help develop their confidence, concentration and understanding of the world around them.

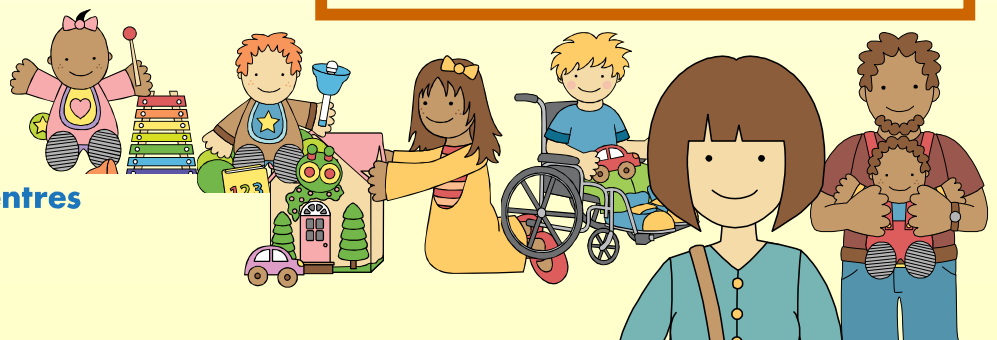
Safety

Always maintain the objects in the Treasure Basket, check for cleanliness and safety, discarding unsuitable items and collecting new ones. Don't include keys or metals that can be dangerous if a baby sucks on it.

Heuristic Play

A Treasure Basket is a heuristic play resource that is a fantastic experience for babies.

Heuristic play has been around for a number of years now, the term was coined by Elinor Goldschmeid and Sonia Jackson, which means to explore and discover



Treasure Baskets

Ideas for what to put in your basket

Objects made from natural materials:

shaving brush
small baskets
bone shoe horn
small raffia mat
clothes peg
leather specs case
paint brush

Paper / cardboard objects:

notebook
greaseproof paper
egg boxes
sturdy cardboard tubes
the circles from inside sticky tape

Metal objects:

spoons
tin lids
garlic crusher
metal beaker
brass curtain rings
length of metal chain
metal bowl
tea strainer
whisk
empty tin
bells

Objects in leather, textile, rubber, fur:

leather purse	rubber gloves	small soft toys
rubber ball	tennis ball	flannel
fur fabric	coloured ribbons	woollen ball
velvet	powder puff	piece of leather
small raffia mat	leather glasses case	

Wooden objects:

clothes peg	shaving brush
small bowls	curtain rings
wood off-cuts	wooden egg cup
spoons	wooden bowl
honey dipper	wooden egg
pastry brush	large beads on string
small baskets	paint brush
rolling pin	cotton reels
wooden nail brush	

Natural objects:

fir cones	large pebbles
shells	big feathers
large corks	a pumice stone
loofer	natural sponge
avocado pear stones	

Other objects:

small jar and lid
plug and chain
hair rollers
toothbrush
scent bags
bone shoe horn
ceramic bowl

and anything else that takes your child's interest!

