

# 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.

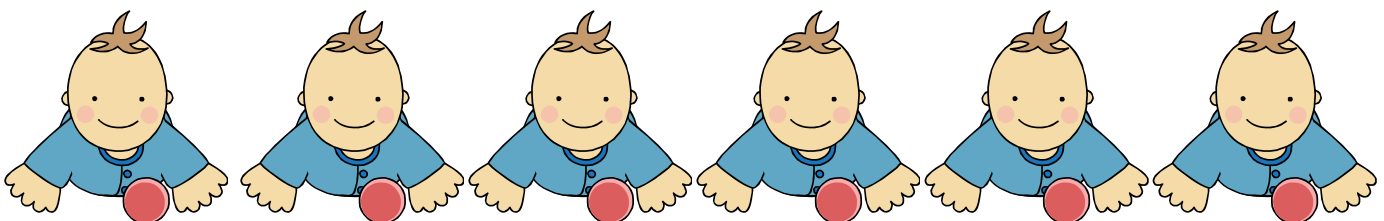
## Heuristic Play

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

## 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.



## Treasure Baskets

# Ideas for what to put in your

### Objects made from natural materials:

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

### 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	

### Paper / cardboard objects:

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

### 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	

### Metal objects:

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

### Natural objects:

Fir cones	large pebbles
Shells	big feathers
large corks	a pumice stone
loofah	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!

