



Heuristic Play



What is Heuristic Play?

It is a collection of everyday natural objects and containers, tins, corks, wooden pegs, cardboard tubes and lengths of chain. Heuristic Play provides children with opportunities to explore using all of their senses and to engage in open-ended play.

Items suitable for heuristic play sessions,

- Fir cones
- Big shells
- Pom Poms
- Wooden/metal spoons
- Large pebbles
- Pegs
- Selection of containers to fill
- Cotton reels
- Tin lids
- Metal whisks
- Smooth pieces of wood
- Safe metal chains
- Scarves
- Ribbons
- Wooden pegs
- Plastic bottles
- Boxes, bags, wallets
- Natural objects
- Jar lids.
- Different sized metal containers (smooth lids).



Skills toddlers develop through the use of heuristic play materials,

- It provides opportunities for children to make choices and develop preferences from a very young age.
- It allows children to investigate and explore a wide range of natural materials.
- Children can practice and refine their fine motor skills and hand/eye coordination.
- It develops concentration skills.
- It develops children's confidence and self-esteem.
- Promotes independence.
- Develops early mathematical concepts, such as big and little and heavy and light.



Heuristic Play provides children with a range of opportunities for filling and emptying containers, posting, testing out objects and ideas and making choices, allowing them to learn at their own pace.

There is no right or wrong way for children to explore the heuristic play resources; this helps develop the children's self-confidence and self-esteem.

