



Treasure Baskets



What is a treasure basket?

It is a collection of everyday objects chosen to stimulate the different senses of hearing, touch, taste, sight and smell. It is a way of giving children a wide range of experiences that help the brain to make connections and helps to keep them happy!

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Contents of a treasure basket

- Fir cones
- Big shells
- Wooden rattles
- Wooden/metal spoons
- Wooden/metal egg cups
- Pegs
- Small bowls
- Curtain rings
- Tin lids
- Metal whisks
- Smooth pieces of wood
- Safe metal chains
- Pieces of fabric
- Ribbons
- Fruit, apple, lemon
- Brushes
- Loofahs
- Natural objects




Treasure baskets are used with babies from approximately 6 months and over, when they are able to sit upright and have a basket placed at the side of them for easy reach of objects.



Skills babies develop through the use of treasure baskets

- It encourages them to use all of their senses. Babies are sensory seekers with mouthing and touching being their favourite sources.
- It provides opportunities for babies to make choices and develop preferences from a very young age.
- Explore a wide range of natural materials.
- Stimulate movement, communication and language through simple materials.
- Practice and refine fine motor skills and hand/eye coordination.

Using the treasure basket

- Make sure baby is seated safely and comfortably, with cushions for support if necessary.
 - Sit nearby and watch to give baby confidence and supervise their exploration.
 - Check contents of basket regularly, cleaning objects and removing any damaged items.
 - It helps to change some items from time to time to enable baby to explore a wide range of materials and textures.
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Heuristic Play

Heuristic play is an extension of the treasure basket, for babies who are mobile.

The materials used in Heuristic Play are natural, everyday objects such as containers, tins, corks, wooden pegs, cardboard tubes and lengths of chain.



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