

Activity: Baby treasure basket

Encourage sensory exploration and independent play with a treasure basket filled with a variety of safe, everyday objects. A treasure basket stimulates your baby's senses and promotes independent exploration. Even simple, everyday items can be fascinating to a baby, offering endless possibilities for discovery.

What you need

- A low-sided wicker basket
- A selection of diverse items that offer different textures, weights, colours, shapes, and sounds. Avoid items with small parts or sharp edges, avoid plastic items (as these all feel the same to a baby)
- Ideas include natural materials (pinecones, seashells, wooden blocks, coconut bowl) and household items (metal and wooden spoons, small wooden bowls, rubber bath plug with a chain, curtain rings, small brushes (nail brush, pastry brush, toothbrush, makeup brush), mini sieve, measuring spoons, ribbons, crinkly paper, natural sponge)

Activity

- Choose a quiet time when your baby is well-rested. Set the treasure basket in front of them in a comfortable and safe space, such as on a soft blanket or carpeted area
- Encourage your baby to explore the contents of the basket independently. Watch as they touch, pick up, and examine each item. Resist the urge to intervene or direct their play; instead, observe and enjoy their curiosity
- Always supervise your baby during the activity and regularly check the basket's contents for wear and tear
- Regularly change the contents of the basket to ensure your child stays interested and explores new items.



Learning opportunities

- Exploring different textures, shapes, and weights helps develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination
- The variety of objects sparks curiosity, fosters concentration, and encourages decision-making
- As babies interact with different items, they begin to understand concepts like texture, size, and sound, laying the foundation for language development.