

BABY STEPS

BIRTH TO 16
MONTHS

THE TREASURE BASKET

MATERIALS:

- A SMALL BASKET (OR BAG, OR BOX)
- 5-10 ITEMS THAT FIT IN THE BASKET (BALLS, SHELLS, SPOONS, ETC. TRY TO THINK ABOUT A VARIETY OF MATERIALS LIKE PAPER, PLASTIC, WOOD, METAL, AND TEXTURES)

OBJECTIVES:

- USE SIGHT, SOUND, AND TOUCH SENSES TO EXPLORE THE WORLD AROUND US
- ENCOURAGE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- DEVELOP GRAB & REACH SKILLS

INSTRUCTIONS:

THE TREASURE BASKET ACTIVITY CAN BE DONE WITH VERY YOUNG INFANTS AND EVEN OLDER, MOBILE INFANTS TO EXPLORE THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

- PROVIDE A COMFORTABLE SPOT FOR BABY, EITHER ON THEIR TUMMY IF THEY HAVE GOOD HEAD CONTROL AND CAN LOOK AT YOU WHILE IN TUMMY TIME, SEATED ON THE FLOOR OR IN YOUR LAP, OR ANOTHER SAFE POSITION WHERE THEY CAN MAKE EYE CONTACT AND SEE OBJECTS IN FRONT OF THEM. IF YOU HAVE A MOBILE BABY, SIT DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND CALL THEM OVER TO YOU. *TIP: IF THEY SEEM UNINTERESTED AT FIRST, TRY SINGING A SONG TO GET THEIR ATTENTION
- PLACE YOUR CHOSEN ITEMS IN THE BASKET (OR BAG OR BOX) AND SHOW BABY WHAT YOU HAVE. ASK THINGS LIKE "WHAT DO YOU THINK I HAVE IN MY BASKET?"
- IF BABY IS ABLE TO, ENCOURAGE THEM TO REACH INTO YOUR TREASURE BASKET AND FEEL THE ITEMS. ASK THEM WHAT THEY FEEL. ASK BABY TO PULL AN ITEM OUT IF THEY ARE ABLE TO OR, YOU CAN HELP THEM DO SO. FOR VERY YOUNG BABIES, YOU CAN DO THIS FOR THEM, AND EXPLAIN TO THEM WHAT YOU ARE DOING WITH EACH STEP ("I'M GOING TO REACH IN AND PULL OUT A TREASURE!")
- AS YOU PULL OUT INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS, GIVE BABY PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH AND FEEL IT. ASK QUESTIONS LIKE "WHAT DO YOU FEEL? IS IT ROUGH OR SMOOTH? WHAT COLOR IS IT? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT DOES?"
- ALLOW BABY TIME TO THINK, EVEN THE YOUNG ONES! AND THEN DESCRIBE THE ITEM TO THEM ("THIS WASHCLOTH IS WHITE AND BUMPY. WE CAN USE IT IN THE BATH." REPEAT FOR ALL ITEMS IN BASKET OR UNTIL BABY LOSES INTEREST. **THIS ACTIVITY MIGHT ONLY LAST A FEW MINUTES, SO IF YOU ONLY GET THROUGH AN ITEM OR TWO AND BABY LOSES INTEREST, THAT'S OKAY! COME BACK TO IT LATER OR TRY AGAIN WITH NEW OBJECTS.

We'd love to see photos of your at home learning! Tag us on Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #MeritSchoolAtHome

