

BABY STEPS

BIRTH TO 16
MONTHS



TUG & PULL BOXES

MATERIALS:

- AN EMPTY SHOE BOX
- SHARP SCISSORS
- SEVERAL DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF RIBBON, STRING, TWINE, OR FABRIC STRAPS (ABOUT 6 TO 10 INCHES IN LENGTH EACH, BUT THIS IS JUST AN ESTIMATE, AND VARYING LENGTHS ARE PERFECT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE! LOOK FOR SCRAPS WITH DIFFERENT COLORS AND TEXTURES.)

OBJECTIVES:

- SENSORY EXPLORATION: TEXTURES
- FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT: GRASP, PULL, TUG
- COLOR AWARENESS
- BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND CAUSE AND EFFECT

INSTRUCTIONS:

FOR THIS ACTIVITY, YOU WILL CREATE THE TUG & PULL BOXES AND THEN ENCOURAGE BABY TO EXPLORE THEM. OF COURSE, ONLY ADULTS SHOULD HANDLE THE SCISSORS AND DO THE CUTTING, BUT BABY WILL ENJOY WATCHING YOU MAKE THE BOXES BEFORE PLAYING WITH THEM!

- GATHER YOUR SCRAPS OF STRING AND FABRIC. YOU WILL WANT TO COLLECT A VARIETY OF COLORS AND TEXTURES, AND PIECES OF VARYING LENGTHS.
- YOU CAN DISCARD OR RECYCLE THE TOP OF THE SHOE BOX IF YOU'D LIKE, WE WILL ONLY NEED TO BOX PIECE. USING THE SCISSORS, CUT SMALL HOLES IN THE BASE OF THE SHOE BOX – ONE FOR EACH STRING OR SCRAP YOU HAVE, AND ONLY JUST LARGE ENOUGH TO THREAD THE SCRAPS THROUGH. IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT, YOU CAN MAKE HOLES OF VARIOUS SIZED TO PROVIDE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TENSION AS BABY PULLS STRINGS, BUT KEEP IN MIND THEY SHOULD NOT BE LARGE ENOUGH TO PULL THE SCRAPS ALL THE WAY OUT OF THE HOLE.
- THREAD SCRAPS THROUGH THE HOLES. GET CREATIVE! YOU CAN PUT MORE THAN ONE IN A HOLE. TIES SMALL KNOTS IN SOME PIECES TO PROVIDE MORE TEXTURE AND TENSION.
- TIE OFF BOTH ENDS OF EACH SCRAP TO BE SURE THE PIECE CANNOT BE PULLED ALL THE WAY OUT OF THE HOLE. *WE DO NOT RECOMMEND USING A BEAD OR OTHER SMALL ITEM AS AN ANCHOR AS THESE CAN POSE SERIOUS CHOKING HAZARDS IF THEY WERE TO COME OFF.
- YOU'RE ALL SET! SHOW THE BOX TO BABY AND DEMONSTRATE HOW TO PULL THE STRINGS. ALLOW BABY TO EXPLORE AND PULL. YOU CAN EVEN FLIP THE BOX OVER TO SHOW BABY WHAT HAPPENS TO THE STRING WHEN ONE END IS PULLED. TALK ABOUT THE COLOR AND FEEL OF EACH STRING ('THE RED ONE IS SOFT', 'THE YELLOW ONE IS ROUGH!')
- ENJOY HOURS OF ENTERTAINMENT WITH YOUR LITTLE ONE!

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

