



2.5+ years

FINE MOTOR



Dry Pouring

MATERIALS

Two small jugs (either identical or similar in size) on a tray, with spouts facing each other. The jug on the right is half-filled with sand, beans, rice, or grain etc..

PRESENTATION

Invite the child to the shelf where the activity is stored. Demonstrate how the tray is held and allow the child to carry the tray to the workspace. Sit on the right side of the child and ask the child to place their hands on their lap while they watch what you are going to do.

Place the fingers of the right hand around the handle of the jug that is on the right. Rest the thumb on the top of the handle. Slowly, lift the jug and while you are moving it towards the other jug, bring the index and the middle finger of the left hand onto the jug, just under the spout.

When the jug is very close to the jug on the left side, and a little higher than it, tilt the jug very slowly. Gradually, the beans/grain will begin to fall into the jug on the left. Allow them to fall into the jug very slowly. When the jug on the right is finally empty, carefully place it onto the tray and check the tray to see if any beans have spilled onto it. If any beans have spilled, pick them up one at a time and carefully drop them into the jug on the left.

Leaving it resting on the table, slowly turn the tray around 180 degrees, so that the full jug is now on the right side. Invite the child to try this activity.

Exercises/ variations:

1. A child is first shown how to spoon larger items such as beans, but when this becomes easy for them to do, smaller grains or dried goods (such as lentils, bulgur wheat or rice) can be introduced.
2. When pouring and spooning are both becoming easy for the child to do, they can be combined in a separate activity.
3. Different jugs or vessels can be used. Long-handled coffee pots may also be used to pour dried goods; they can be placed on a tray with one (on the right side) spout facing forwards and handle extended to the side. The coffee pot on the left can be placed on the tray, facing backwards, with the handle extending to the left.

DIRECT AIM

To skilfully pour dried goods.



INDIRECT AIM

Coordination and muscular control of movement.



CONTROL OF ERROR

Spilled beans or grain will be heard/seen spilling onto the tray or table.



POINT OF INTEREST

Seeing that the full jug has become empty



AGE

From two and a half years, onwards. By age approximately 4 years, children might have diminished interest in this activity, although careful observation of the child will inform you of this. In some cases, individual needs and interests will extend a child's connection to this activity.