



3+ years

FINE MOTOR



Sorting

MATERIALS

A tray, holding a row of two or three small containers (empty) and one larger container, that is half-filled with a mixture of three kinds of seeds or three kinds of beans, three kinds of pebbles, three kinds of nuts, three kinds of shells, three kinds of grain etc..

Blindfold (optional).

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.

Slowly and carefully, demonstrate how you are using your eyes to examine the contents of the larger container. Then pick one object and take a moment to look at it, feel it and hold it. Place the object into the small container at the left side of the row. Take a similar object and place this, also, in the small container on the left. Now, select a different object from the larger container and place this object in the small container that is situated in the middle of the row. Place a second, similar, object in this container. Do the same with the third kind of objects, and the container on the right of the row.

Select any object and then place it gently in the container that holds similar objects. At this point, you can ask the child if he/she would like a turn. Either take turns or allow the child to sort all the objects until the large container is empty. When all of the objects have been sorted, show the child how to pour or lift all of the objects back into the larger container before returning the tray to the shelf, or place where the activity is stored.

Variations:

1. Where resources are limited, the tray might only hold one container and the items could be lined up in groups on the ground, mat or table surface.
2. For an extra challenge, two children could work together with one child wearing a blindfold and the other child handing them the objects to sort.

DIRECT AIM

Refinement of the senses.



INDIRECT AIM

Development of focus, concentration and basic categorization skills.



CONTROL OF ERROR

Visual, when the groups do not appear uniform.



POINT OF INTEREST

The aesthetic properties of the objects.



AGE

3-5 years