



2.5+ years

FINE MOTOR



Pouring With A Funnel

MATERIALS

A tray, holding a jug or bottle, a funnel and a small bottle. There should also be a sponge/cloth on the tray to gather liquid spills, or a brush to gather sand if sand is used instead of liquid.

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.

With the dominant hand, slowly lift the funnel and turn it upwards. Place the funnel into the neck of the small bottle as carefully as you can. If you are using a jug, curl the fingers of the right hand around the handle of the jug, with the thumb resting on top of the handle. Placing the index and the middle fingers of the left hand directly under the spout, slowly lift the jug and move it towards the funnel until the spout is situated directly over it. If you are using a medium sized bottle, lift it carefully with both hands.

Tilt the jug/bottle and allow the water/sand to pour slowly through the funnel, and into the small bottle. When the water/sand has all been poured, carefully return the jug/medium sized bottle to its designated spot on the tray. Lift the funnel out of the small bottle and if you are pouring water use the sponge to dab at the spout (which is still facing downwards). Then return both the sponge and the funnel to their original spots on the tray. Spills can be gathered with the sponge (water) or brush (sand).

Slowly lift the small bottle and pour the water/sand back into the jug/medium sized bottle. Set this bottle back in its spot and invite the child to try this activity.

Exercises/ variations: Different jugs or vessels can be used, as well as different-sized funnels.

DIRECT AIM

To skilfully operate a funnel when pouring liquid.



INDIRECT AIM

Coordination and muscular control of movement.



CONTROL OF ERROR

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



POINT OF INTEREST

Seeing that the full container has become empty. In this activity, the funnel itself is also a point of interest.



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