

PRESCHOOL EXPLORERS

24 TO 36
MONTHS
TRADITIONAL

TREASURE BOTTLES

MATERIALS:

- EMPTY WATER BOTTLES (OR OTHER CLEAR, PLASTIC BOTTLE)
- SAND (ENOUGH TO FILL BOTTLE 2/3 OF THE WAY)
- FUNNEL
- 10-15 SMALL ITEMS (LIKE BEADS, LARGE SEQUINS, SMALL TOY ANIMALS THAT WILL FIT IN THE MOUTH OF THE BOTTLE)

OBJECTIVES:

- DEVELOP FINE MOTOR SKILLS
- ENCOURAGE HAND-EYE COORDINATION
- BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY AN ITEM WHEN ASKED
- BEGIN PROBLEM-SOLVING CONCEPTS

INSTRUCTIONS:

TREASURE BOTTLES ARE LIKE A HANDHELD TREASURE HUNT YOU CAN DO OVER AND OVER AGAIN! WHEN WE DO THIS ACTIVITY WITH TWO-YEAR-OLDS, WE ARE PRACTICING LISTENING AND FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS, SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF "WHERE IS SOMETHING?" AND WORKING ON OUR FINE MOTOR SKILLS AND COORDINATION.

- MAKE SURE YOUR PLASTIC BOTTLE IS CLEAN AND COMPLETELY DRY. BE SURE TO SUPERVISE WHEN USING THE SMALL OBJECTS AS THEY CAN BE CHOKING HAZARDS.
- OPEN BOTTLE AND SAVE CAP. PLACE FUNNEL ON TOP OF BOTTLE AND ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO HELP POUR THE SAND IN UNTIL IT'S ABOUT 2/3 FULL. IF YOU CHOSE TO USE GLITTER TO, YOU CAN CAREFULLY POUR THAT IN WITH THE SAND.
- REMOVE FUNNEL, AND DROP SMALL ITEMS INTO THE BOTTLE OF SAND.
- REPLACE CAP AND SECURE TIGHTLY. *TIP: IF YOU WISH, YOU CAN USE HOT GLUE OR TAPE TO MORE PERMANENTLY SECURE THE CAP ON THE BOTTLE TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.
- SHAKE UP THE BOTTLE SO THE ITEMS GET BURIED IN THE SAND! THIS IS FUN FOR LITTLE ONES AND MAY HELP GET SOME "WIGGLES OUT."
- ASK YOUR CHILD TO FIND THE ITEMS IN THE BOTTLE, BY SPINNING AND TURNING IT UNTIL IT IS UNCOVERED. ("CAN YOU FIND THE SMALL PINK SHELL?") IF THEY ARE VERY QUICK AT THIS, ASK THEM SEVERAL THINGS AT ONCE ("CAN YOU FIND THE BLUE SHELL AND THE PURPLE STAR SEQUINS?")
- KEEP PLAYING AND TALKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE UNTIL YOU'VE UNCOVERED ALL THE "TREASURE!"

**ASK YOUR CHILD TO DESCRIBE WHAT THEY SEE. YOU CAN MAKE SEVERAL BOTTLES, OR THEMED BOTTLES IF YOU'D LIKE (IE: ALL BLUE ITEMS). THESE ARE GREAT, REUSABLE TOYS THAT ARE GREAT FOR CALMING BIG EMOTIONS AS WELL!

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

