



Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge Activity for 12 to 18 Months

Easy-Shape Boxes

When cans and lids are played with separately, this is a fine-motor activity. If you use them together, this becomes a cognitive activity as children discover which object goes into which hole.

Materials:

- Two coffee cans with lids
- Baby-food jar lids
- Old-fashioned wooden clothespins
- Sharp knife

To make:

1. File any sharp edges on the cans, if necessary
2. Cut a slot hole in the lid of one can for the baby-food jar lids, and a small hole in the other lid for clothespins.

What to do:

1. Allow the child to play with the cans and their contents separately, simply enjoying sticking the objects through the lid.
2. Put the cans, the baby-food jar lids, and clothespins in front of the child. Have the lids on the cans.
3. Show the child how to make the objects go through the slot, if she has difficulty.

Variation:

Cut a slot in a shoebox just the right width and length to fit the lids through.

