



Approaches to Learning Activity for 18 to 24 Months

Fill-and-Spill Bottles

This activity sparks children's interest and sense of inquisitiveness as they try to figure out what objects will fit into different holes. It also challenges their ability to focus on completing a task.

Materials:

- Plastic bottles of all types (large plastic water-cooler bottles, plastic pop bottles, gallon milk jugs, and shampoo bottles)
- Items to put inside bottles (yarn pieces, cotton balls, plastic straws, clothespins, and pipe cleaners)

What to do:

1. Give the child the empty bottles and materials to put inside (one bottle at a time).
2. Put out different materials on different days.
3. Allow the child the time to determine what will fit through the hole in the top and watch it drop through.

Variations:

- A. Allow the child to fill bottles with water and dump them out again.
- B. Make it a group activity and have children take turns.
- C. Show the child how to screw on the tops of large-mouthed plastic jars.

What to observe:

- A. Does the child seem to understand the concepts of finding something the right size to fit through the hole and lining it up?
- B. What does the child do when the object doesn't fit?
- C. Does the child persist with finding other objects to fit in the hole?

