



Approaches to Learning Activity for 12 to 18 Months

Tubes Inside of Tubes

This cognitive activity helps children discover relationships of size and space.

Materials:

- Tubes of various diameters (toilet-paper tubes, paper-towel tubes, mailing tubes, plastic drinking straws)
- Container to hold tubes

What to do:

1. Nothing! Just watch what the child does with the collection of tubes.
2. See if the child spontaneously experiments by putting the various tubes inside of each other.
3. Talk about what he is doing, if the child demonstrates interest.
4. Notice with the child that the smaller tubes fit inside the larger cylinders.

Variation:

Let the child have fun sticking things through the tubes. Small cars might go through some of the tubes. A piece of clothesline might be pushed through. Can the child figure out how to stuff a scarf through a cylinder?

