

More from Active Learning Space

Objects that will Change Shape

- Paper fans
- Ear syringe
- Thick clothesline
- Aluminum pie pans
- Empty rubber gloves
- Hair and scrub brushes
- Rubber gloves filled with flour



Objects for Promoting Number Concepts

- Keys, spoons, plexiglass, pieces of wood, curlers, curtain rings, key rings, round sticks, combs, pieces of water hose, door hinges, thimbles, springs
- A ring of elastic
- Nail brushes joined together
- A shoe with a lace
- A plastic bottle with a bottle brush
- Purses with various closing mechanisms
- Eyeglasses case with glasses frame

Ideas for Weight and Temperature

- Containers filled with sand
- A pedal
- Ice bags
- Stones, shells
- Big metal nuts and bolts
- Warmed bag of rice
- Hot water bottle, filled or partly filled with water



"I used to do a lot of finger painting with him - just putting paint on his fingers and scribbling and moving. He was not really interested, but he was cooperative with me. After I started doing this method of painting, he would see a little bit and watch. After the whole painting is done, he really looks at his painting. I explain his painting to him, and he stares at his painting. This is one method I learned that we enjoy together." - Little Bear Sees

Nature Rubbings

Playing outside is always a great time to create nature rubbings. Whether your little one needs some hand-under-hand assistance or they are ready to tackle the task themselves, this activity is fun and engaging.

Materials:

- Old crayons with outer wrapping removed
- Printer paper
- Nature: Leaves, grass, tree bark, etc.



"Learning is achieving knowledge by being active."
(Nielsen, L. 2001)

Resources

Active Learning Space

- www.activelearningspace.org
- www.activelearningspace.org/family/
- www.activelearningspace.org/materials/attractive-objects/

Paths to Literacy

- www.pathstoliteracy.org
- www.pathstoliteracy.org/resources/teaching-students-visual-impairments-introduction

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- www.successforkidswithhearingloss.com/
- www.texasdeafed.org/

References

Active Learning Space, n.d., Accessed March 15, 2022, <https://activelearningspace.org/>

Little Bear Sees, 2022. Accessed March 15, 2022, <https://littlebearses.org/>

National Center on Deaf-Blindness. 2022. "Active Learning." Accessed March 15, 2022. <https://www.nationaldb.org/info-center/educational-practices/active-learning/>

Nielsen, L. 2001. "Early Learning Step by Step." Copenhagen, Denmark. SIKON.



Around the House

Household Items You Can Use with Your Child

Active Learning



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Ideas from Active Learning Space

Dr. Lilli Nielsen's techniques emphasize simple ways to change the environment so that a child becomes an "active learner."

Look around your house, and find items that have a variety of textures, temperatures, tastes, smells, colors, weights, and shapes. By simply offering your child common household objects, you are giving them information about the world around them. You may want to collect these into an old suitcase or other containers so that you can clean them after each use to avoid the spread of germs. Wash them in soapy water, if that is appropriate, or wipe them with sanitizer.

Items with Tactually Attractive Qualities

- Strings & laces with knots of various sizes
- Draining sets for soap made from rubber and plastic
- Pot cleaners
- Christmas items
- A bunch of straws
- Whisks
- Forks
- Bottlebrush, hairbrush, and all kinds of brushes
- Springs of various types
- Curlers with prickles and/or brushes
- Strips of paper, especially metallic paper
- Chains of beads with star-shaped spangles
- Chains of three beads and one button alternately
- Combs with widely spaced teeth
- Small, grooved baking tins
- Lollipops made from round sticks dipped in melted sugar and corn flakes
- Inner wrappings from chocolate boxes
- Shuttlecocks
- Funnels made from plastic or metal
- Adhesive tape, slightly crumbled to a shape to be grasped by the child
- A nature walk crayon rubbing activity

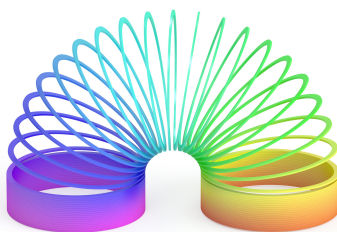


Items with Auditorily Attractive Qualities

- Wrapping paper, tissue paper (folded/crumpled)
- Metal teaspoons
- Slightly inflated balloons
- Metal or plastic measuring spoons
- Christmas bells
- Triangle and windchimes
- Bicycle horn



- Mouth organs
- Flutes
- Toothbrushes
- Velcro
- Castanets
- Tuning forks
- Slinkies
- Mylar tissue



Ideas for Hanging Objects

- Plates
- String for hanging plates
- Embroidery rings
- Cellophane to cover the rings
- Egg slicers
- Boxes fitted with rubber bands
- Pumps for the air beds
- "The Harp" available from LilliWorks

Items to Promote Putting Fingers into Holes

- Marking rings and all kinds of rings
- Handles for bicycles
- Belt buckles
- Plates with holes
- Finger cuffs
- Large metal nuts
- Stones with natural holes



"One of the ways to encourage children with multiple disabilities, including those with deaf-blindness, to engage in learning is through independent exploration and active participation. Without these opportunities, children can become passive and overly reliant on others. Active learning involves a range of strategies to create developmentally appropriate and enriched environments that promote independent learning."
(National Center on Deaf-Blindness. 2022.)

Kitchen Items

"The kitchen is the heart of the home and a great place to find things to use to create Active Learning environments. If you are working in the kitchen, fill a lower cabinet space with containers and other items the child can get to so they can play on the floor or simply give them a variety of kitchen gadgets to explore. Consider the variety of materials the items are made of such as metal, wooden, plastic, stone, ceramic, etc. Also, think about the size, shape, and weight of the objects as it relates to the child's ability to grasp, bang, scratch, etc. Most importantly, be creative! Find out which things your child finds interesting and note how he or she engages with the object."



"You could also hang some cooking utensils from the cabinet door with string or use an over-the-door hook to hang them from and attach them with strings or rubber bands."



Why not hang a piece of string or a broom handle between pieces of furniture and then attach items such as cans, measuring cups, pots, pans, and spoons! Children can bat at these items. Use different materials such as corrugated boxes, folded paper, crinkled newspaper, etc., and glue these onto an old cereal box to make a scratchboard.

"Place items inside a laundry basket, and the child can pull them out through the holes. Be sure that the items are small enough or squishy enough to fit through. You can leave part of the item hanging out a bit for the child to find more easily and to help him or her get started."

A laundry basket can also be used in the tub! Just place your items in the basket and place the basket in the bathtub! The child will enjoy splashing and can place items in and out of the basket!

