earlySTEM™ Ball Drop

Here's What You Get!

- 1 Drop Box
- 1 Ball
- 1 Teacher's Activity Guide

Introduction

Young children are inherently curious about the world around them – they make great scientists! By putting the Ball into the hole at the top of the Drop Box and discovering what happened, young children increase their fine motor coordination and develop emergent math skills while having fun! The Box and Ball are made of solid wood for years of durability and exploration.

Use the Ball Drop to address these Head Start Early Childhood Learning Outcomes:

PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR, & PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT - Fine Motor

- Goal IT-PMP 6: Child coordinates hand and eye movements to perform actions.
- Goal P-PMP 3: Child demonstrates increasing control, strength, and coordination of small muscles.

COGNITION - Reasoning

- Goal IT- 6: Child learns to use a variety of strategies in solving problems.
- Goal IT- 7: Child uses reasoning and planning ahead to solve problems.
- Goal IT-C 9: Child uses spatial awareness to understand objects and their movement in space.

Suggested Activities:

Where Is It?

Encourage the child to explore the Drop Box. Put fingers in the hole, open and close the sliding door. Demonstrate how to put the Ball into the hole. Where's the Ball? Slide open the door – there it is! Repeat a few times, then invite the child to put the Ball in the hole and find it.

Something Else

Select a small toy that will fit into the hole in the Drop Box – a stuffed animal will work fine! Have the child watch as you put the toy in the hole. Invite the child to find the toy. The child may insert her hand in the hole, or remember to open the sliding door to retrieve the toy. Either way, the child is using different strategies to solve a problem!

As you demonstrate and as the child practices these activities, use vocabulary to describe actions and spatial relations. For example, put the Ball *in* the hole, *open* the door, see it roll it *out* and *down*.

#JRBALL
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