



Heuristic Baskets

Age recommendation: Babies 3 months and upwards

In Heuristic play, your baby uses all of their senses to explore a selection of objects from around the house and garden.

It's wonderful to watch them conducting their own physics experiments through dropping, pulling, sucking, and holding various objects. The key is not to interfere in the babies play - just sit back and let your child explore.

You can start this play as soon as your baby can sit up (around 3 months) and continue up to as old as 18 months.



What you need

The Shiny Basket

Shiny and reflective things

- Kitchen whisk
- A metal christmas ornament
- A teaspoon
- A serving spoon
- A bell
- Napkin ring
- Old bracelets
- An old CD
- An old metal teapot

The Musical Basket

Things that make pleasing sounds

- Bells
- Shakers
- Tambourine
- Plastic tubs to hit
- Beach shells
- A set of old keys
- Jam jar lids

How to

1. Gather twenty five items or so in a basket.
2. Choose a safe area on the floor and lay out their play mat.
3. Give the basket to your baby on the floor and let them explore.
4. Watch over babies as they play.
5. Don't intervene unless they are in danger somehow.
6. Only do this activity two or three times a week. That way it will always be interesting for them.

Safety

Avoid paper or card based objects that will break down. Small objects that can be a choking hazard. For small items strung together, such as beads, check they are safely strung.