



Examples of Treasure Baskets

Birth to Five Service

Examples of Shiny/Metal Objects



Examples of Wooden Objects



Brushes





Using Treasure Baskets with Babies

(PEEP 2007)



Babies Making Choices - The Treasure Basket
(An extract from the *Learning Together with Babies* folder)

A baby's brain is growing fast, developing in response to her surroundings through the senses of touch, smell, taste, hearing, sight and movement.

The treasure basket is a collection of everyday objects chosen to stimulate the different senses. It is one way of giving babies a wide range of experiences that help the brain to make connections and develop – and helps to keep them happy! Babies learn from the treasure basket by looking, touching, sucking, licking, banging, picking up and dropping. It gives babies the chance to explore and decide for themselves what they want to play with. Babies' curiosity about the contents of the treasure basket means that they will often concentrate for longer and longer periods of time.

Making the treasure basket:

A treasure basket should not tip over too easily

Fill the basket with objects, so that your baby has plenty to choose from

Babies often want to put everything into their mouths. Make sure that everything you choose for the basket is safe

Everyday items from around the home are best. The purpose is to offer interest through smell, taste, sound, touch and sight (eg colour, form, length, shininess).

A basket could contain:

Natural objects – fir cones, big shells, large walnuts, pumice stone, fruit: apple, lemon

Objects made from natural material – woollen ball, little baskets, brushes (test bristles are firmly attached)

Wood – rattles, spoons, egg cups, bowls, pegs, napkin rings

Metal – spoons, tin lids, tea strainer, garlic squeezer, bunch of keys

Odds and ends – little notebooks, small purses, small cardboard boxes, inside of kitchen roles

Using the treasure basket:

Sit nearby and watch to give your baby confidence. There is no need to talk or intervene unless your baby clearly needs attention

Make sure that your baby is seated comfortably and safely, with cushions for support if necessary

Check the contents of the basket regularly, cleaning objects and removing any damaged items

It helps to change some of the items in the treasure basket from time to time

It might be worth providing a distraction for older siblings (PEEP 2007)