

Appropriate for :
Infants, Young Toddlers and Older Toddlers.

Collection of Balls



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Balls of all kinds, at least one for each child.
- Large container such as a laundry basket, for storage and play.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Leave two or three balls accessible all the time, but sometimes bring out the whole collection and let the children play with them, both inside and outside. The more balls the better!
- Option: Scarves and beanbags can be used in similar ways.

What the adult can do to support learning and development in these domains:

- Help children play together by making sure you have balls for all the children who would like to play with them.
- Allow plenty of time for exploration indoors and outdoors.
- Encourage children to throw, toss, roll or kick the balls.
- Use playtime with balls to reinforce safety messages (“Alex, you remembered to watch out for your friends before you kicked the ball.”)

Examples of language that can be used between caregiver and child:

- “You made the bumpy ball bounce across the floor”.
- “It looks like Sarah wants to play with you. Can you roll the green ball back to her?”
- “Michael is playing with that ball. Let’s ask him if you can play with him. Would you like to take turns bouncing the big red ball?”

This activity highlights support for the following *NCFELD* domain:

Cognitive Development	Approaches to Play & Learning	Language Development & Communication	Emotional and Social Development	Health & Physical Development
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