

## Treasure Baskets

The children have been discovering Treasure Baskets at nursery. Here is some information about Treasure Baskets so you can make and enjoy one at home.

### **How we learn...**

Babies and young children use their five senses to learn;

1. Taste
2. Touch
3. Smell
4. Sight
5. Hear

A baby will mainly use touch, smell and taste to explore new things. Keep this in mind when making your Treasure Basket.

### **What is a Treasure Basket?**

A Treasure Basket is a small basket filled with a number of different items which your child can select from and discover using their five senses. They allow babies who are not yet moving around the opportunity to explore and choose what they want to look at and play with, rather than those decisions being made for them by an adult.



### **How do I make a Treasure Basket?**

- Get yourself a suitable basket. A round wicker basket is ideal, but even an old shoe box will do.
- Make a list of things you would like to include and get friends and family to help you find them. Look in drawers at home. Take a visit to the car boot sale. Collect items after a day at the seaside in the summer. You are aiming to fill the basket so the child has lots of

- choice and will continue to play with it for extended periods of time over many months.
- Check items are clean and in good condition before putting them into your Treasure Basket. As things get worn down, make sure you replace them. Items do not need sterilising but a regular clean is good to keep them fresh.
- Make sure baby is fed and clean before you play. Choose a time when they are alert and refreshed. Find a space and time when your baby will be uninterrupted so they can play for as long as they like.
- Get them some cushions so they feel supported and make sure you are comfortable too.
- Place the basket next to the child and let them see what they discover!

### **What should I do whilst my child is playing?**

Sit back and let your baby play, be attentive, accept an item if they try and give it to you, smile, maybe collect an item if it has rolled too far away from them (though let them see if they can get it first; it is good to encourage independence and moving). Do not get involved; just be there if they need you.

### **What kind of objects can I put in my Treasure Basket?**

*Natural objects-* Shells, a lemon, loofah, pine cone

*Objects made from wood-* curtain ring, door wedge, coaster, spatula

*Object made from metal-* bunch of keys, bangle. lemon squeezer, plug and chain, spoons

*Objects made from leather and textile-* Bag of herbs, juggling ball, small teddy bear, coloured ribbons

*Objects made from rubber-* ball, large eraser, door stop

*Objects with bristles-* Paintbrush, tooth brush, make up brush

*Objects made from glass and marble-* Egg, small make up mirror, an ornament

*Objects made from other materials-* Hair roller, golf ball, cork, scourer