

Bag it up

Encourage children to engage in open ended activity, following their own interests and play preferences.

Learning aims

- Exploring a range of resources
- Promoting the characteristics of effective learning:
 - Playing and exploring – engagement
 - Finding out and exploring
 - Playing with what they know
 - Being willing to ‘have a go’
- Talking about what they are doing and why
- Comparing and contrasting objects.



Resources

- Gift bags of different sizes and shapes
- Collections of natural materials e.g. shells, stones, sticks
- Small world animals and people.

Activity Outline

- Lay out the resources on a table or mat on the floor
- Encourage the children to explore the resources, and add the resources to the bags to make collections
- Observe the children and how they are choosing to use the resources – can you see children showing any preference e.g. schematic play – containing, enclosing, transporting etc.
- Comment on the children’s play and follow their interests
- Talk to the children about what they have collected, using descriptive and mathematical language.

Extension ideas

- Provide two or more ‘bag stations’, some inside and some outside, with different resources
- Provide other containers for the children to use such as boxes and baskets
- Add a till with money and encourage shopping role play.

Working with younger children

Younger children will enjoy exploring a range of natural materials, putting them in and out of containers. They especially like posting items, so you may like to cut some holes in recycled cardboard boxes for the children to ‘post’ the resources into. Use key words and phrases such as ‘all gone’, ‘where’ and ‘look there it is’