

Making a treasure basket

Age: 15–24 months

Resources:

A tray or basket, everyday objects such as a hairbrush, cutlery, sponges, cups, wooden spoons, soft toys, musical toys, bells

Clean outdoor items such as acorns, leaves, pebbles

Tips:

Treasure baskets can be filled with everyday objects which your child will become familiar with. It's a fun simple way to allow your child to explore textures, experiment and make choices at their own pace. Playing these types of games with your child may encourage your child to use their vision to scan the basket, or to use their hands when searching for items.

Providing your child with opportunities to **touch and explore** items can aid their understanding of concepts (for example, colours and size) within their environment.

In your **treasure basket**, you can add items that make a noise (such as a ball with a bell in it), something that has a nice smell or items of different textures, so that your child uses all their senses.

Activity:

Use your senses treasure basket

- **Encourage your child** to use all of their senses to find items in the treasure basket. Provide verbal clues and prompts to promote your child's exploration. For example, 'Find something that makes a noise.', 'Find something that smells nice.', 'Find something that is rough.', 'Find

something you can eat.', 'Find something you can smell.'

- **Name each object** as your child plays with it. Talk about how it feels and explore it together. If it's a soft object, like a sponge, let your child feel the texture with their hands or use soft strokes along their arms and cheeks.
- If your child has **limited mobility**, ensure they're seated in the best position to be able to focus and engage.
- **Find matching textures:** you could include two sets of matching materials. Place one set into a bag, encourage your child to reach into the bag to select an object and then match it to one in the basket. Or take photos of your objects and ask your child to find the object in the photo.
- Remember to give your child **increased time** to process the information.



Notes:

Please supervise your child at all times while completing any of the activities outlined on this sheet. Stop any activity if your child becomes upset, unwell or you are unsure if you are completing it correctly.

The activities on this card align with stage 3 of the [Developmental Journal Babies Visual Impairment \(DJVI\)](#)

If you would like any further advice or support, please contact the advice line on **0800 7811444** or via email children@guidedogs.org.uk