



Approaches to Learning Activity for 12 to 18 Months

Paper Cup Nesting Toys

This activity requires children to be persistent in getting the cups apart and figuring out how they go back together. This is also a cognitive activity as the children explore shapes and sizes.

Materials:

- Large stack of paper cups

What to do:

1. Let the child play with these, seeing how they come apart and go back together.
2. Attract the child's attention if there is no spontaneous activity by showing him once how they come apart and fit back together.

Variations:

- A. Use a stack of soft plastic tumblers for a more permanent version.
- B. Square or rectangular refrigerator-storage containers present a more difficult version. The child must line up the corners.

What to observe:

- A. Does the child use different actions such as shaking and banging to get the cups apart?
- B. Does the child attempt to put them back together again?
- C. Does the child stick with the activity even though frustrated?

Safety alert! Do not use Styrofoam cups because the children could bite off small pieces and swallow, choke on, or inhale them.

