

Treasure Baskets

At Petit Enfant we are in the early stages of offering treasure basket and heuristic play sessions for all children. In order for this to be a success we need a constant flow of new and exiting pieces of equipment and hope you can help!



Treasure Baskets

Treasure Baskets are aimed at children aged up to approximately 12 months of age and are an ideal way to stimulate their curiosity and exploration of natural materials.

If you have any of the following items going spare we would appreciate your contribution.

- Fir cones
- Natural sponge
- Large pebbles
- Shells
- Wooden balls
- Raffia mat
- Wooden nail brush
- Shaving foam brushes
- Wooden egg cups

- Spatula or wooden spoons
- Wooden curtain rings
- Small baskets made from wicker, raffia or other natural material
- Cotton reels
- Feathers
- Wooden bangles
- Draw string bags—small and large
- Spoons in various sizes
- Garlic squeezer
- Tea bag squeezer

This list is a small selection of items that will be available.

As you will see the every day objects are made from natural materials. This provides the children with natural experiences in a growing culture of plastic! The children will use all their senses to explore that materials.

Hygiene and Safety

Safety is a priority when offering treasure basket and heuristic play items. Therefore we aim to replace items as often as possible due to hygiene. All equipment will be checked for safety/choking prior to being given to the children.

Heuristic Play

Heuristic Play is a step along from treasure baskets but has the same minor differences. It can be used for children of any age once mobile, however is commonly used for children aged between 12 months and 3 years. Through my experience I have seen that children of any age benefit from this type of play.

Natural and everyday objects are placed out in sets. E.g. 15 bangles, 15 scarves, 15 egg cups etc. along with containers such as cardboard boxes, smooth edge tins (chocolate or biscuits tins), wooden kitchen roll holders or mug trees, plastic bottles.

The children will use these materials in various ways: filling and emptying, selecting and discarding, recognising similarities and differences, piling and balancing. There is no question of success or failure and there isn't a right or wrong way of doing things. The children learn by experimenting and discovering what the objects will and wont do. During the activity your child's key person will sit back, observe and note what they see.



We require the following objects for our Heuristic play:

- Bells—any size
- Small teddies (clean)
- Keys
- Dried herbs (lavender, mint, thyme)
- Large coloured marbles
- Corks
- Scarves

- Bangles
- Ribbons
- Tinsel
- Old chocolate/biscuit boxes/tins
- Plastic wrappers from inside chocolate boxes
- Small cardboard boxes such as shoe boxes
- Plastic bottles with lids
- Kitchen roll tubes
- Cylinder boxes which hold bottles
- Ball of wool
- Items from the treasure basket list overleaf

If you would like more info or would like to see us in action, please do not hesitate to give me a call or speak to your room leader.