

DISCOVERY TOY BASKET

Focusing on Engagement with Others, Materials and the World



This child-led activity allows endless opportunities for exploration, creativity, and invention while children learn the fundamentals of science. By asking open-ended questions, you are also able to support the development of children's communication and literacy skills (*Let's Play!* 2019).

ACTIVITY

WHAT IS DISCOVERY TOY BASKET?

Discovery Toy Basket is an experience inspired by the idea of **Heuristic Play**, a term coined by child psychologist, Elinor Goldschmeid in the 1980's (*Let's Play!* 2019).

Heuristic Play describes the activity of babies and children as they play with and explore the properties of 'objects' in the real world (*Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks* 2013)

Visit below link for more information:

[Heuristic Play Part I - The Treasure Basket | Blog | Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks](#)



- Place a variety of objects into a basket, tub, or small cardboard box (e.g. keys, kitchen utensils and recycled household items).
- Present it to the child without directing their play.
- Ask open ended questions, such as
Can you tell me what is inside?
Does it make any noise?
What do you think you can do with it?
- **Remember, there are no right or wrong answers!**



OUTSIDE EXTENSION

Take it outside and add some natural elements, such as pinecones, leaves, flowers, stones, seashells, and twigs!



SONG

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Old MacDonald had a farm
Ee i ee i o
And on his farm he had some cows
Ee i ee i oh
With a moo-moo here
And a moo-moo there
Here a moo, there a moo
Everywhere a moo-moo
Old MacDonald had a farm
Ee i ee i o

Repeat the song with different animal sounds

REFERENCES

BC Ministry of Education (2019), *Let's Play! Activities for Families*

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/early-learning/teach/earlylearning/lets-play-activities-for-families.pdf>

Little Acorns To Mighty Oaks (2013), *Heuristic Play Part 1 - The Treasure Basket*

[Heuristic Play Part I - The Treasure Basket | Blog | Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks](#)

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^mməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

BOOK



Flashlight

by Lizi Boyd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeDgkfYFdy8>

Favorite stories are brought to life with sound effects which represent characters and events using instruments and/or their voices and bodies.



VSB