

Using Tools

Encourage your child to use an object as a tool to get an item that is out of reach.

Your child will practice using tools to solve problems.

You're using the spoon to help you reach the block!





Why this is important

When you encourage your child to use objects to reach things, she learns that tools can help her complete tasks she could not otherwise do. When she uses a wooden spoon to move a block closer to her, she learns that an object such as a spoon can be used in more than one way. This understanding helps her think of new ways to solve problems.

What you do

- Look for opportunities to offer your child a tool to use to get something that is out of reach. For example, when her ball rolls under a chair and out of her reach, use the opportunity to offer her a tool that can help her get the ball. Give her a ruler to reach with. Be sure to supervise her exploration and give her some help if needed.
- Place a few blocks out of her reach on a table. Place a long wooden spoon on the table and wait to see if she will use the spoon as a tool. Help her by asking, *Can you use the spoon to reach the blocks?*
- Show your child other tools to use such as a low, sturdy stool to help her reach high places. When using the stool, make sure you have removed dangerous items to another room or a very high shelf.
A stool should be used only if you are able to watch and help as your child uses it.
- Step back and let her discover new uses for household objects. She may surprise you with her ideas!

Another idea

Encourage your child to help with household chores so she can see how you use tools around the house. Offer her a wagon to use to collect her toys at clean-up time.

Let's read together!

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