

Nesting Objects

You're putting the small cup in the big one!

While your child plays with objects that fit together, ask questions and talk about what she is doing.

Your child may begin to recognize differences in size and will become familiar with size words.





Why this is important

By offering her materials of different sizes, you draw her attention to some of the ways objects may fit together. Hearing you describe her actions, she learns words such as big, bigger, small, and smaller. Putting things in order and understanding sizes prepares your child for certain kinds of math learning later in life. As she grows she will use this knowledge to understand ideas such as first, second, and third.

What you do

- Offer your child various household containers in graduated sizes such as juice cans, measuring cups, or plastic storage dishes. Set them in front of her, and then step back and watch her explore them. She may roll, bang, or hide them.
- Give positive feedback when she nests two or more objects. *Look! You put one cup inside the other.*
- Ask her questions about a set of cups by holding the largest one and asking her which one goes in next. Do not correct her if she chooses the wrong cup. Let her experiment with the different sizes.
- Use words to describe the various containers. *That cup is big and this one is small. The small cup is green. The big cup is red.*
- If she appears frustrated, make the game simple by only offering the largest and smallest containers.

Another idea

Look around the house for objects that nest together such as cardboard boxes and plastic bowls. Watch her as she figures out the best way to put items together.

Let's read together!

Blueberry Shoe
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