

Choosing Lids

*You found a lid
that fits just right!*



Offer your child a variety of jars with screw-on lids and talk about what he's doing as he experiments with them.

Your child will practice turning the lids to open and close them and may begin to make thoughtful choices about which lid to use for each jar.



Why this is important

Giving your child the opportunity to experiment with containers and screw-on lids encourages him to use a trial-and-error approach to solving a problem. When given choices, your child may choose randomly at first. However, through repetition, he will begin to develop problem-solving skills and make more selective choices. This activity also encourages him to coordinate his hands to help him select and screw on the lids.

What you do

- Show your child a plastic container with a screw-on lid. Slowly unscrew the lid so that he can see the motion.
- Drop a toy in the jar and replace the lid so that it will open easily.
- Encourage him to get the toy out of the container. If he does not try to unscrew the lid, place your hand over his and open it together. *We use our hands to turn the lid. Now it's open.*
- Notice how he tries to screw the lid back on. He may just push the lid onto the container. With practice, he will be able to use his hand to successfully turn and close the lid.
- Talk about what he is doing. *You're turning the lid to close it.*
- Provide time for him to play with the containers, lids, and toys while he practices his new skill.

Ready to move on?

Give your child several small containers with various kinds of lids. Give him small objects to put in the containers. Offer direction when needed, but let him choose how to play with the objects. Talk to him about the choices he is making. *You put the small lid on the small jar and the big lid on the big jar!*

Let's read together!

Elephants on Board
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