

## Ideas for objects to find...

### Natural objects:

- loofah
- avocado stones
- woollen ball
- feathers
- shaving brush
- corks
- fir cones

### Wooden objects:

- egg cup
- bracelets
- bowl
- napkin ring
- spatula
- cotton reel
- curtain ring

### Metal objects:

- small egg whisk
- small tin
- spoons
- metal beaker
- bangle
- chain
- CDs
- small potato masher

### Other objects:

- small box
- purse
- beads
- textured material
- rubber glove



### Have a go at making your own Baby Shaker:

Find a small water bottle, fill half full with beans, water and oil, pasta, rice and much more.

Just make sure the top is glued on and tape together so it doesn't come off.

Welcome to a Sure Start Children's Centre which brings together quality early learning, children and family health services, family support and links to training and employment advice, all under one roof.

We hope you find our centres a relaxed and friendly place where parents can get to know each other and where children can play and learn in a safe environment.

If you would like more information please visit our website, call the Parenting Project or speak to your local Health Visitor:

[www.parentingproject.org.uk](http://www.parentingproject.org.uk)

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Charity Registered Number: 1125291

Parenting Project  
stratford district



Welcome to the world  
of Treasure Baskets

## What is a treasure basket?

A treasure basket is a shallow and sturdy basket filled with a **variety of natural and everyday objects** varying in weight, size, texture, colour, smell and taste that will be attractive to babies. This collection of objects is specially chosen to help babies explore and experiment using the **five senses: touch, sight, sound, smell and taste.**



## Why are treasure baskets Important?

Treasure baskets provide babies with a wide range of objects within easy reach that **stimulate the senses** and that are safe to handle and explore in different ways.

**Young children respond more intensely to natural materials and more muted colours.** By experiencing the smell, taste and feel of the objects the babies begin to find out how things work, what they like, and how to make choices.

Young babies learn fast and need to be stimulated so that they don't get frustrated - treasure baskets can offer babies endless opportunities for exploring and playing.

## Getting started...

When giving a treasure basket to your baby for the first time, be aware that they may take a while to show interest. Make sure the basket is placed in a quiet area, free from other toys and distractions and stay close by to offer support.

Try to let your baby **explore** the basket for themselves and choose things they like, rather than picking objects out for them.

Give your baby **reassurance** through eye contact and gestures – your baby will love to know that you are watching them intently and that you're interested in what they are exploring.

Keep the contents of the basket **varied** and try to introduce new objects regularly to keep your baby's interest. Also try to include objects that appeal to the different senses e.g. a lemon pierced with a fork for smell, shiny paper for sight.



## Making your own treasure basket?

Why don't you have a go at putting a basket together at home. Find a Basket and start filling with objects, but remember always make sure the objects are safe for your baby to play with.

**A good rule of thumb is...washable, wipeable, disposable.**

**For safety reasons never leave your baby alone with the treasure basket, and always supervise their playtime with the basket.**

Keep an eye out for any objects that have pieces broken off or have become unsafe and throw them away. **If in doubt, leave them out!**



*Ask a member of the team for more information or help getting started.*