

New Things to See

Primary Objectives

11d. Shows curiosity and motivation

Why It's Important

Consistently rotating the toys and materials that you offer to your child helps maintain his interest, encourages him to explore the things around him, and gives him an opportunity to experience change in his environment.

Materials

None

What You Do

1. Observe your child's ability to recognize new materials. Notice how he explores each new item. Pay attention to how he responds to familiar items that you are reintroducing into his collection of playthings.
2. On a monthly or seasonal basis, put away a few of your child's toys and materials. Later, bring back some of these and put away some of his other toys. You can also introduce simple household items such as nesting measuring cups, plastic lids in various sizes and colors, or a collection of small natural objects (leaves, pine cones, smooth stones, seashells) stored in an empty egg carton. Do not rotate too many materials at once. Too many new toys might overwhelm your child or make him uncomfortable that his environment has changed too much.
3. Do not bring the new materials to your child's attention. Instead, wait for him to notice the new objects on his own. If he does not notice them, point him in the right direction. *I put several new toys on this shelf. Can you find them for me?*
4. Be aware of which toys your child may be distressed to find missing. Explain their absence and reintroduce them if necessary. If you notice that your child is distressed by any change in the home environment, you may wish to invite him to help you rotate the materials. Your child will then feel that he has some control over the changes and will be more comfortable playing with the new toys.