

Outdoor Play Bell

Primary Objectives

23. Demonstrates knowledge of patterns

Why It's Important

Using cues to help your child recall the next step in a routine can help him learn about time concepts and sequences of events. When he associates a familiar cue with a routine, your child will be able to anticipate what to do next without adult assistance.

Materials

None

What You Do

1. When it is time for your child to go outside, ring a bell or play a special instrument to indicate the next step in the routine. The bell or instrument can signal when he should put his coat on or put his toys away before going outside.
2. Use verbal direction with the bell or instrument until your child automatically responds to the sound. When it is time to stop playing outdoors, ring the bell or play the instrument again to signal the end of playtime.
3. Observe your child's response to the cue. Notice how quickly he remembers what the cue means.
4. To preserve its effectiveness, use the bell or instrument only for the indoor/outdoor transition. If the bell can signal many different things, your child may become confused when he hears it.