

TRANSPORTATION OF SANDY MATERIAL



Topic: Practical life skills



Key terms: sand, soil, sandy material, plastic soft drinks bottle, glass bottle, funnel

What we need: sand, dirt, plastic soft drinks bottles / shovels, glass bottles, buckets

Estimated time: 20 minutes

Methods: heuristic conversation

Activity description:

Possible objectives: To facilitate children's creativity and problem solving skills.

To work cooperatively in small groups and support pro-social behaviour.

Allow opportunities to understand some features of sandy materials.

Activity:

Aim of the activity:

To investigate sandy material and transport it by using plastic soft drinks bottles, shovels and glass bottles as transportation containers.

Background context:

Good decision-making is a key life skill. This skill is not innate but learnt through experiences, repetition and practice. If you always directly guide early year's children you are preventing them from practicing this skill. This becomes more crucial when they get older and face more difficult situations. So when possible, always allow early years children to solve problems by themselves.

Introduction to the activity:

Children, have you ever heard about sandy materials? Can you name any sandy materials? Where can you find them in your daily lives? Are there any around us?

During the activity:

If the activity takes place on a school playground which has a sandbox, sand could be used, if it is elsewhere (meadow/forest), soil could be used instead. The teacher cuts plastic soft drinks bottles to create a shovel or participants may use normal shovels. The first task is to fill a bucket with sand/soil. Additionally, small glass bottles are given to children, which are representing transportation containers. The children's task is to transport all the sand/soil from one bucket to another bucket, a short distance away, using small glass bottles. The teacher could give some advice on how to make this process easier (e.g. by making a funnel out of bottles lids).

Possible evaluation questions for children:

Children, what strategy did you used? Did you work with others? How did you feel? What was difficult/easy about the task? Which material was easiest to transport sand or soil? Can you think of an alternative use for plastic soft drinks bottles?

Curriculum links:

Man and craft
Practical life skills

Sources: © This activity sheet was created by The Take Me Out Partnership

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