

Potion Bottles Activity Ideas



Giant Potion
Bottles –
EY07350



Coloured Potion
Bottles -
EY12223



Mini Maths
Measuring
Bottles- EY10343



Clear Plastic
Potion Bottles -
EY12221

The Magic of Potion Bottles

Childhood memories of a perfume or potion mixed and swirled with a carefully chosen stick in a humble bottle is a treasured memory. Help to create such powerful memories for your children and in doing so enrich them with vital key learning experiences.



Mathematical Development

Ideas of how to develop and nurture children's early mathematical thinking and lay essential foundations through play with Potion Bottles.

- **Number the bottles** with post-it notes or numbered labels attached around the bottle neck with wool. Can the children place them in order of number/size, or fill them with corresponding amounts? Children may wish to practise mark making by numbering the bottles independently.
- **Sort loose parts or natural treasures** such as buttons, leaves, petals and pebbles into the different bottles. How many have they got in each one? Children may want to go on a colour hunt and fill the coloured potion bottles with items of matching colour. Which colour can they find the most items for? Alternatively, they may wish to make colour collections using clear potion bottles.
- **Introduce the concept of volume and capacity** by setting challenges or wondering alongside the children. Which of the bottles holds the most/least amount of liquid? Can the children fill the Messy Maths Measuring Bottles to the marks on the side showing quarter, half, full etc? They may want to find out how many times they have to fill the large bottles with the smaller ones.
- **Encourage mathematical language** to be used in the mud kitchen or the sand e.g. more, empty, full, quarter etc.
- **You can also talk about size**, speaking about which objects can or can't fit into the bottle and which need to be placed in the larger or smaller bottles.



Sensory Exploration and Self-Regulation

The **Potion Bottles** are not just fun and visually exciting but also offer children an interactive and sensory experience.

- **Pouring or scooping** e.g., water or pebbles into different bottles not only helps to develop motor skills but provides a sense of calm for many children. Observe as they watch the materials cascading into the bottles whilst listening to the trickle of water or the sound of pebbles rattling around.
- **Physical movements** such as shaking up their mixtures, scooping or dropping their ingredients into the bottles, and tipping the contents out are great for easing frustrations and releasing pent-up energy. These activities offer children the space to have some time out and are ideal for self-regulation,
- **Create sensory bottles** filled with treasures that sparkle or float. Watch as the children are mesmerised and calmed by the movement within the bottles. Add beautifully scented herbs and spices for a multi-sensory experience e.g., lavender, basil, mint, nutmeg, orange peel or cloves.
- **Mix and make emotion potions** using the different coloured bottles. Ask the children which of the colours remind them of feelings such as sadness, happiness, and frustration. Can they talk about situations that have made them experience this emotion? Children may wish to label the potions or make emotion potions of their own by adding coloured water to clear bottles. Alternatively, why not add pebbles for extra weight or bicarbonate of soda and vinegar (with adult supervision) to create mini eruptions?



Imaginative Play

Potion Bottles offer endless imaginative and role-play possibilities, allowing children to create and pretend in a way that suits their play.

- **Create a laboratory or perfumery** where mini scientists blend, mix, whisk, and stir their concoctions and perfumes. What are the potions or perfumes called? Children may want to use their mark-making skills to label them with imaginative names or draw symbols/pictures to show what type of potion or perfume the bottle holds.
- **Hide secret messages in the bottles** for the children to find. Who are they from? Pirates or other imaginary characters? Try leaving a treasure map inside one of the bottles for the children to discover in the sand or other areas of the setting. It might lead them to the buried treasure!
- **Set up a mini bowling game** using the bottles as pins. Toddlers can practise rolling a soft ball to knock them down.



“Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create.”
- Maria Montessori



Investigation and Exploration

Ignite a sense of discovery as children investigate the world around them, developing scientific skills and concepts along the way.

- **Observe** the ways that the clear potion bottles can change colour. What can the children place in the bottles to turn them red, sparkly, cloudy or frothy?
- **Collect ingredients** and use them to make mixtures in the coloured potion bottles. Can the children predict what colour it will be? Pour the contents into a clear bottle to test their predictions.
- **Investigate the concept of sinking and floating** by placing the different-sized and shaped bottles in a water tray (some with lids on, others without). Why not try adding different items into the bottles to see if this makes a difference?
- **Light and Shadow:** Use the potion bottles with light sources such as the Early Years Projector to cast coloured shadows onto the walls. You can also use torches to cast a coloured glow on the floor/walls using the potion bottles.

