



Wooden Posting Channel Wall & Spheres (EY10655)

This review, shared by Nic, the Nursery Manager at Kids Planet Nursery, Gedling, explores how the Wooden Posting Channel Wall and Spheres supported babies and toddlers through hands-on, open-ended play. From exploring movement and cause and effect to developing co-ordination, communication and problems-solving skills, the resource quickly became a versatile part of the provision within their setting.



Here at Kids Planet in Gedling, we are strongly influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach and focus on having accessible and inviting provision for our children to extend their learning and understanding independently.

Our babies have a large interest in posting and this wooden channel wall with spheres gave them a fantastic opportunity to explore movement and cause and effect with ease. It's compact size but sturdy structure allowed our youngest children to pull themselves up onto their knees and explore all three channels confidently both indoors and outdoors (we took it outdoors on a fine day and brought it in after).

The range of texture, sound and sizes of the balls supported their developing fine motor skills as the babies grasped the balls with one or two hands, squeezing and shaking them to see which balls rattled. They gently felt the various soft textures, rolling the balls back and forth between their hands before starting to post, developing their hand-eye co-ordination. They connected with educators as they explored posting with the different sized channels, anticipating the ball dropping, and were supported with introducing language such as 'ready, steady, go' 'big' 'small' '1, 2, 3'. It presented opportunity for investigations when the ball wouldn't fit in the tube and encouraged further exploration into matching sizes. The babies explored alongside each other, observing and learning from each other's actions and trying new approaches with the different resources.

By using the Wooden Posting Channel Wall, babies developed a deeper understanding of cause and effect, enhancing their cognitive abilities, specifically with problem-solving. They improved their hand-eye coordination and control over manipulating items as they used the different sized balls to post. This resource promoted social interaction as they observed one

another and connected with educators to support further understanding and exploration. The wall has proven to be highly beneficial in promoting child-led, open-ended learning.

We found the wooden posting channel to be a versatile and engaging resource particularly for babies and young children. It is compact enough to move easily around the room, allowing practitioners to follow children's interests, and light enough to carry outdoors onto a rug on a dry day to extend play opportunities.

When used outside, babies and young children enjoyed posting natural materials such as pinecones and stones. During the Christmas period, we adapted the resource by swapping the usual sensory balls for baubles, which added seasonal interest and excitement. In the sensory room, the posting channel worked well with light-up balls and objects with a variety of textures and sounds, supporting sensory exploration.

The wooden posting channel encourages early problem-solving skills in babies, helping them develop an understanding of size, shape, and object permanence. Children showed clear enjoyment as objects bounced out of the bottom, prompting giggles and laughter and motivating repeated play.



Many thanks to the Nic, the Nursery Manager at Kids Planet in Gedling for sharing this with us.