

Ideas and Inspiration for the Wooden Posting Channel Wall and Spheres

Wooden Posting Channel Wall and Spheres (EY10655)

Wooden Posting Channel Wall and Spheres – Supporting Learning in the Early Years and Beyond

This beautiful Wooden Posting Channel Wall and Spheres has eight balls of differing textures that are perfect for appealing to a child's sense of curiosity. Place the wall where children can access it independently. They will need to experiment and explore.

This simple but effective resource offers engaging opportunities for babies and young children to explore movement, texture, sound and cause and effect through hands-on play.

The 8 ideas in this download encourage children to investigate, repeat actions, solve problems and develop early language, communication and coordination skills.



Wooden Posting Channel Wall and Spheres

Post and Predict

Develop curiosity and problem-solving by using:

- Different sized balls and objects.
- Other tubes, cardboard rolls and natural materials for the children to use, explore and experiment with.
- Words such as “too big”, “too small”, “just right” and “fit”.

Children are little prediction machines and enjoy testing what will and won't go through the channels. Talk together about what might happen before posting. Which objects will pass through easily? Which will get stuck? Why?

Texture Detectives

Encourage sensory exploration by using:

- Textured balls and fabrics (ones included in the resource and extras if you have any).
- Natural materials such as pinecones, pebbles etc (risk assess first)
- Descriptive words including smooth, rough, fluffy, soft and bumpy.

Children often enjoy feeling the objects before posting them. Compare textures together. Can children find objects that feel the same? Which textures do they like the best?

Ready, Steady... go!

Build anticipation and communication skills by using:

- Simple countdowns and repeated phrases.
- Turn-taking games.
- Rolling and posting skills.

Children love waiting for the ball to appear at the bottom. Try building anticipation by using language such as “ready, steady go!”, “1, 2, 3” or “where did it go?”

Repetition helps children join in and predict what happens next.

Changing It Up

Extend play opportunities by using:

- Natural materials such as pinecones, pebbles and leaves etc (risk assessment needed).
- Light-up balls such as the Glow Spheres and other sensory objects.
- Different materials to create different inserts/surfaces on the bottom of the wooden posting channel wall.

Children may notice different sounds and movement depending on where the resource is used. What happens when the balls and objects are posted and fall on to soft material, a piece of carpet or wood?

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Roll, Drop and Listen

Develop listening and investigation skills by using:

- Balls that rattle, bounce or make different sounds.
- Quiet and noisy objects of different shapes and sizes.

Children enjoy listening carefully as objects travel through the channels.

Which objects make the loudest sound? Which are the quietest? Can children guess the object just by listening?

Watching and Learning Together

Support social skills and collaboration by using:

- Side-by-side exploration.
- Shared posting games.
- Opportunities to copy and repeat actions.

Babies and young children often watch each other closely during play. One child may discover something exciting, or a new way to post or roll objects. By playing together, this encourages others to try the same idea for themselves.

Repeat and Explore

Support schematic play by using:

- Repeated posting and dropping actions.
- Rolling objects backwards and forwards.
- Filling and removing objects from the channels.

Many children enjoy repeating the same movements and actions again and again as they explore how things work.

Repetition helps children build confidence, coordination and understanding through play.

Gone...and back again!

Support early understanding of object permanence by using:

- Balls and objects that disappear from sight as they pass through the channels.
- Covered baskets or scarves alongside the posting channel wall.
- Simple language such as “gone”, “where is it?” and “there is it!”

Young children enjoy watching the objects travel through the channels before appearing again at the bottom. Repeating this play helps children begin to understand that objects still exist even when they cannot be seen. The surprise and anticipation often lead to repeated play and lots of shared enjoyment.