

Little Lights and The Ark 19th June 2020

Hello parents,

What sort of things are your favourite treasures? Apart from my children, I do love flowers and I treasure my perfume, that my sister bought me for Christmas. However in an emergency what would you save? Well apart from the children obviously and your pets, I suspect photos or sentimental jewellery might be a favourite, but things are just things aren't they and they don't last. Well today our story challenges the little ones (and bigger ones) to think about what is really valuable and what is really the most important question that perhaps should concern all us.

Video



<https://youtu.be/q4YnAn1-9cg>

Craft

Our craft today is to develop a treasure box for our babies or our children. I keep a box of memories in one of my cupboards, my babies first shoe and letters written from the past. Older toddlers may enjoy searching for treasures that they can keep in a treasure box from a walk in the woods or by the sea.

We live in a world where plastic toys dominate the shelves of toy shops, but plastic is dull and disappointing for babies, and while each rattle may look different each one smells, tastes and feels the same - it is un-stimulating to a baby's senses.



The Treasure Basket can be used with babies from the time that they can sit unaided to around 16-18 months, during this phase the primary question a baby would ask if they could talk would be 'What is the object like?'. The Treasure Basket is a ridged low sided round basket filled with 'objects' from the 'real world' these 'objects' are made from any material but plastic and come from a variety of sources in nature and the around the house. It is through handling and exploring these objects that a baby develops contact with the outside world and begins to make their own choices and decisions. This type of play is described as heuristic play. The term “Heuristic Play” was coined to describe “the interaction of babies and children with everyday objects – not toys.”

The treasure basket is not a static plaything, over time objects can be added, taken out and replaced, every time you go somewhere new, you can collect objects to go into the treasure basket (e.g. shells from a trip to the beach or pine cones from a visit to the gardens) so that the basket grows, reinforces learning experiences and becomes a catalogue of memories. Every treasure basket will be a unique collection of objects. Once you have built up this 'base' of objects to go in your treasure basket, you can add more to it over time, which will keep your baby interested with a new object to explore every now and then.

- **Paper / cardboard objects:** Egg boxes, notebook, sturdy cardboard tubes, greaseproof paper.
- **Wooden objects:** Door wedge, small turned bowl, dolly pegs, egg cup, wooden egg, spoons, curtain rings, coaster, bracelet, block, napkin rings, dowel, empty salt and pepper cellars.
- **Leather, textile, rubber, or fur objects:** Small knitted toy, bean bag, piece of flannel, velvet powder puff, bags of herbs, bag of lavender, leather key ring, coloured ribbons, leather purse.
- **Rubber objects:** Ball, bath plug with chain, soap holder, door stop, coaster.
- **Metal objects:** Honey drizzler, an egg cup, curtain ring, egg poacher, measuring spoons, tea strainer, whisk, powder compact, bells, lemon squeezer, small bowl,
- **Natural objects:** A lemon or orange, coconut shell, grass rope, sheepskin, pumice stone, loofah, shells, pine/fir cones, driftwood, avocado stone, large pebbles.
- **Brushes:** Scrubbing brush, pastry brush, baby's hairbrush, nail brush, makeup brush, paint brush, shaving brush, wooden toothbrush.
- **Other objects:** food colouring bottle, hair rollers, small mirror, scent bags, bone shoehorn

I hope you enjoy making your baby a treasure box if you haven't tried one before. my grandson used to love his although now he is obsessed with cars, especially 'Ganmas green car'

Take care and let us know how you are getting on. we love hearing from you.

With love,
Catherine, Ark and Little Lights