



Visual Tracking Tubes

Here's What You Get!

- 5 Visual Tracking Tubes
- Teacher's Activity Guide

Introduction:

Within a few months of birth, children have enough visual acuity to begin to track the movement of people and things through space. Watching how much attention children give to moving things provides adults with an indication of how much tracking skill has developed. Although development occurs at different times for different infants, visual tracking is a good indicator that the children's visual capacities are developing.

As children begin to show increased interest in what is going on around them, they develop the ability to observe greater detail within the movements. The Visual Tracking Tubes are filled with interesting items for children to see and hear. As the tubes are tipped and rolled, the contents change position and, in some cases, create noises. This kind of stimulation helps children continue to develop increasingly-refined observation skills.

Use the Visual Tracking Tubes to address

Developmental Guidelines for Infant and Toddler*

- Exploring objects and developing observation skills
- Dropping and retrieving objects
- Looking for items
- Picking up items
- Observing items and actions for a short period of time
- Beginning to understand spatial relationships
- Beginning to imitate how others solve problems in a variety of ways
- Creating a plan for carrying out simple tasks and problems
- Beginning to demonstrate eye-hand coordination

Suggested Activities:

- Hold one of the Visual Tracking Tubes vertically in front of the children. Flip the tube upside down. Allow the children to observe what happens to the contents of the tube when it is flipped. Use a tube with contents that will create a sound when flipped. The sound will give the children an audible clue to help them focus visually.



Visual Tracking Tubes (continued)

- Repeat the above activity with each one of the Visual Tracking Tubes. If the children make an attempt to grab or hold a tube, allow them to do so. Do not expect the children to understand the concept of flipping the tube the first time they see you do it. Observation should be the goal when the children are first introduced to the tubes. After becoming familiar with the tubes, the children will be more inclined to turn them over independently.
- With the children sitting or crawling on the floor, roll the tubes on the ground in front of them and allow them to observe.
- Allow the children to manipulate the Visual Tracking Tubes by turning them or rolling them, so that they can discover what happens to the contents of the tube.

Extended Activity:

When the children are developmentally ready, begin to help them identify attributes of the contents of each tube, such as color, shape, sound, etc.

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