



earlySTEM™ Rocking Balance

Here's What You Get!

- 1 Rocking Balance
- 4 Weight Cubes
- 1 Teacher's Activity Guide

Introduction

Young children are inherently curious about the world around them – they make great scientists! By observing the Rocking Balance and experimenting with the Weight Cubes, a young child begins to use strategies, make predictions, and draw conclusions while having fun! The Rocking Balance and Weight Cubes are made of solid wood for years of durability and exploration.

Use the Rocking Balance to address these Head Start Early Childhood Learning Outcomes:

COGNITION - Reasoning

- Goal IT- 6: Child learns to use a variety of strategies in solving problems.
- Goal IT- 7: Child uses reasoning and planning ahead to solve problems.

COGNITION - Scientific Inquiry

- Goal P-SCI 2: Child engages in scientific talk.
- Goal P-SCI 3: Child compares and categorizes observable phenomena

COGNITION - Problem Solving

- Goal P-SCI 4: Child asks a question, gathers information, and makes predictions.
- Goal P-SCI 5: Child plans and conducts investigations and experiments.

- Goal P-SCI 6: Child analyzes results, draws conclusions, and communicates results.

Suggested Activities:

What Happens?

Invite the child to experiment with the Rocking Balance. Demonstrate how to push gently on one end and observe how the balance moves. Put a Weight Cube in a well on one side and observe the motion of the balance. Remove the weight and place it on the other side. What happens? What happens if you put two Weight Cubes on the Rocking Balance?

Balanced!

Demonstrate how to place a Weight Cube in a well on one side of the Rocking Balance. Describe the motion to the child. Place a Weight Cube in the corresponding well on the other side, and describe the motion. Use hand gestures to show the Rocking Balance is even, and also appropriate science language (weight, heavy, balance). Remove one of the Weight Cubes and invite the child to balance the rocker.

By Myself

Guide the child to independently select cubes and place them on the rocker so it balances. Encourage the child to experiment by placing the cubes in different wells.