

Infant Toddler Sensory: Colander Exploration



Learning Value:

Infants and toddlers are very interested in cause and effect, and asking the question, “What happens if I do this?” Household objects offer prime opportunities for exploration. In this activity, children explore various substances to learn about how colanders work.

Materials Needed:

- ▶ Colander, sieve, or salad spinner
- ▶ Measuring cups or bowls
- ▶ Thin liquids—water or oil
- ▶ Viscous liquids—liquid soap or yogurt
- ▶ Granular materials—salt or sand
- ▶ Larger objects—stones or apples (avoid choking hazards)
- ▶ Bowl

Participants:

This activity is intended for adult/child interaction.

Directions:

- ▶ **Step 1:** Sit with your child on the floor. Place a bowl or tray under the colander and pour water through the colander. Say to your child, “Look! The water went through the holes! What will happen if we put (oil, soap, sand, etc.) through it?”
- ▶ **Step 2:** Help your child pour other materials through the colander and comment again: “Did it go through? What will happen next?”
- ▶ **Note:** Wash the colander out between each material, especially if the material is one you wish to save.