

Fill and Dump

Primary Objectives

7a. Uses fingers and hands

Why It's Important

Children at this stage love to experiment with cause and effect by filling up a container and dumping it out. You can encourage your child's fine-motor development as she fills and dumps by providing materials that are the right size for her to pick up with a thumb and index finger. When you demonstrate how to pick up and drop the materials into small containers, you give your child the opportunity to imitate your actions.

Materials

Small blocks or beads; large containers; small containers

What You Do

1. Place the small blocks into a large container and arrange several small containers next to it.
2. Show the materials to your child. Allow her to explore the materials on her own.
3. If she does not use the materials for filling, pick up a block using your thumb and index finger and drop it into a small container. Then dump it out.
4. Your child may imitate your play or continue to use the materials another way. Acknowledge her efforts. *You are banging the red block on the floor. You dropped the green block into the cup.*
5. Stay nearby and periodically acknowledge her play. This will help her sustain her attention to the experience.
6. Allow your child to continue with the activity for as long as she is interested. Leave the materials where she can find them to use again during play.