



## THE FEELY SOCK

### Materials you need:

- 1-3 large socks with a long neck
- Items from your loose parts collection as well as some of the children's current favourite toys (small enough to fit in the sock)
- Try to include a range of different textures, shapes, sizes and some that make noise.

### Setup for play:

- Show the children the objects you have collected then fill the sock/socks with 5 of your chosen objects without letting them see what you put in each sock .
- Play some music and pass the socks around as you all sit down on the grass or inside on a mat. Allow enough time for each child to feel and investigate all of the objects in the sock but no peeking! If you only have 4-5 children in care you might find it easier to give each their own sock, especially with a multi age group so there is no waiting and you can tailor the objects to their stage of development.
- Use descriptive language to help them share what they are feeling or smelling as they touch the socks.
- When everyone has had a chance to touch a sock and make a guess or two about what is inside you can then reveal the contents. Discuss what was surprising, what they got right , how they made their guess.

### What are they learning with this activity?

As the children pass around the feely socks and try to describe what they are touching they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Use descriptive language
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Understand basic position concepts
- Listen to and follow directions
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- The skill of transference and representation
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators

### Extending the play:

- Turn the feely sock into a smelly sock using familiar scents like lavender, orange etc and see if they can guess where all of the 'smells' come from. You could do something similar using items that make a noise. What makes that sound?
- Add more socks to your collection and play a colour matching game as you find the pairs or create groups by size, colour or style.

