



SHINY SURFACES TREASURE BOX

Materials you need:

- Selection of shiny mixing bowls
- Metal trays, teapots, saucer and cup, milk jug (find them in your op shop or local market – no need to buy anything new!)
- Shiny spoons, ladles, cake slicer.
- Any other shiny surface 'real tools' you have around the house or centre. Try and include some that have flat surfaces and some that have curved.

Setup for play:

- When you have your collection of shiny surface tools (they will mainly be metal obviously) explore together with the children. Ensure easy access for everyone to the basket so they can pick and choose something to explore.
- Encourage the children to handle all of the tools, talk about what they might be used for and how they feel.
- Ensure crawlers and walkers join in by having access to the basket of tools to explore in their own way.
- Encourage the sharing of ideas and opinions – ask questions that help with their understanding. Do you look the same in the tray as in the spoon? Does it make a difference if you turn the spoon over? What can you see that is different?
- Look around the room or yard – where else can we find something that shows our reflection?

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children explore the shiny surfaces they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Understand how reflections change in a curved reflection surface.
- Identify reflective surfaces in the spaces around them
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Understand basic position concepts
- Listen to and follow directions
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Work together in a group with others
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and hands on investigation
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Classify, sort by category and group items together by similarities, patterns and differences

Extending the play:

- Sort the tools according to the types of reflections they give
- Look at the shiny surfaces in a dark area – are they still shiny?
- Look at a reflection while painting on a mirror or some shiny foil.