



CONTAINERS & LIDS PLAY

Materials you need:

- A collection of different sized plastic jars with screw top lids—wide mouthed jars are preferable
- Small toys like cars, dinosaurs, natural materials that will fit into the jars – think about the child's current interests. Try and have a few different sizes if possible.

Setup for play:

- Place the open jars, matching lids and toys in front of the children and encourage them to choose toys to fit into their jars.
- Ask each child to find the lid that fits their jar and then try to screw it on so the toy can't fall out.
- Let them play freely as they place toys inside and out, shake, open and close.
- For younger babies give them access to a basket of jars and lids and let them explore, touch and taste.
- For younger toddlers you will need to show them how to place the lids on the jars – they won't be able to screw them on at this stage so focus on sizes, shapes and matches.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children experiment with the jars and lids they are learning to:

- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Persevere and experience the satisfaction of a job done well and sense of achievement
- Problem solve and make decisions to meet their needs
- Experiment with cause and effect
- Understand basic position concepts
- Listen to and follow directions
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project
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Extending the play:

- Screw the lids on the jars and leave them on the shelves to build with and incorporate into play as they wish.
- Set up a tub of soapy water, add a few dishcloths or sponges and ask the toddlers to wash and dry the containers for you – more fun outside!

