



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.

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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!

