



SURPRISE CLOTHES BAGS

Materials you need:

- A packet of large brown paper bags (or similar).
- Small clothing items the children wear regularly in different seasons (check the op shops or ask families to bring a few in for the day)
- Choose items that will fit into a small bag – think warm gloves, swimshirts, scarves, sunhat, sunglasses, beanie, shorts.
- Music you can stop and start.

Setup for play:

- Place each piece of clothing in a different paper bag. Play music and let children dance around – when you stop the music call out a child's name to come and choose a bag.
- When they pull out the clothing ask if they can name it and when we would wear it – when hot, when cold?
- Exaggerate the surprise of choosing the clothes out of the bags and see who can guess!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children find and label the clothes 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
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Use descriptive language to name their facial features and any emotions shown
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and play
- Broaden their understanding of the world
- Make predictions and generalisations about aspects of the natural world around them

Extending the play:

- Show pictures and examples of some real fruit and vegetables that toddlers might be familiar with—talk about **what season each one grows best in**. What could we plant right now?
- Use old pots ranging from large up to small to make a herb and flower tower using in season plants at a height perfect for toddlers. Place each pot inside the other at angles to leave small spaces for planting. Show the toddlers how to help look after the plants and harvest the flowers, strawberries and herbs when ready.
- Paint or draw on the paper bags and use them to collect flowers and leaves while playing outdoors.