BUTTON BUILDING TEAMS

Materials you need:

- A collection of different coloured, textured, shaped and sized buttons (ask families for help to build your collection or scour the op/thrift shops) .
- Blu- tack and plasticine.
- Measuring tapes or rulers.
- Flat, stable spaces for constructing.

Setup for play:

- Give the children access to the large collection of buttons and encourage them to experiment with the plasticine and blu tack to join the buttons together and build towers.
- Show them how to break off the plasticine or blu tack, press onto a button and then press another button on top firmly to begin building. What happens if you turn buttons on the side rather than face to face?
- Can they build a tower that holds some weight at the top?
- Measure the towers to see who has the highest one. Who can build the highest using the least number of buttons?
- Use the measuring tapes to measure other things around the room.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children work together to build button towers they are learning to:

- Classify and group items together
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively while investigating and experimenting
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project
- Explore basic math and science concepts.
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve

Extending the play:

- Work together with the children to sort the buttons by the number of holes they have as an extra challenge.
- Make colourful rainbows by gluing buttons to card in the shades of the rainbow.
- Glue buttons to corks, press into stamp pads or paint then onto paper to create different patterns and prints.