



HATS, HATS, HATS

Materials you need:

- A collection of clean hats of different sizes and styles (op shop!)
- Mirror the children can see their whole head in.

Setup for play:

- Set up all hats on an easily accessible table or in a basket on the ground for younger ages.
- Sit down with the children and try on a hat. Use simple descriptive language "look at my RED hat" "I have a BIG hat". Pass to the children to try on and repeat the phrases you used but change to 'YOU (or name of child) have a big hat now'.
- Step back and encourage children to choose their own hats and try them on.
- As they look in the mirror use descriptive language again to share what you see.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children explore with the hats they are learning to:

- 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
- Gain confidence
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Listen to and follow directions
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Understand basic position concepts
- Express emotions and use gestures.
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and play
- Develop a confident self-identity

Extending the play:

- Use the hats to help you introduce simple position concepts like on top, off, on, behind etc.
- Ask the children what else they can find in the room to use as a hat.
- Look at a book or search the internet for pictures of different types of hats from different countries.

