



TIN CAN ROBOTS

Materials you need:

- Empty, clean tin cans, labels removed and duct tape around the rim.
- Packet of small magnetic dots, squares or strips to cut to size (check your \$2 shop for inexpensive options)
- Hot Glue Gun
- Selection of collage materials children can use to create features on their tin can e.g pom poms, milk bottle lids, nuts, bolts, washers, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, yoghurt lids...whatever you have!

Setup for play:

- Before you want to do the activity use the hot glue gun to stick magnets to the back of the craft items. Allow to dry.
- Set out the empty cans and magnetic materials and encourage children to mix and match to build their own tin can robot!
- Allow them to explore their own creative process – if they don't want to make faces that is perfectly fine! Talk about what they have chosen to make.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children create with the magnetic pieces on the cans they are learning to:

- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively
- Manipulate equipment with increasing competence
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements

Extending the play:

- Glue both ends of a few cheap slinky's to the inside of jar lids before gluing a magnet to the lids. Use them to make bridges, walkways and funny hair as they stick from one tin to another.
- Ask the children what other materials they would like to use on their tin cans to create something different. When they have chosen give them some PVA glue to stick a magnet to the back.

