

Seedling Nursery

What are Treasure Baskets?

Treasure Baskets are baskets that contain a vast range of everyday objects that are usually made from natural materials for babies to sit next to and explore. Treasure Baskets are usually made from natural woven materials such as wicker and straw. They have a broad base and a large opening at the top so the baby can see all in the basket and access it easily if they wish. The basket should also be stable to ensure it does not topple or tip onto the baby as they lean in to take an item out of it. Items in Treasure Baskets should be clean, safe and hygienic as babies enjoy exploring with their mouths.

Examples of items that can be placed in a Treasure Basket for babies to explore include :

- Natural objects such as fir cones, big shells, pumice stones, big feathers, loofahs and corks.
- Disposable natural objects such as fruit and kitchen roll tubes.
- Wooden objects such as curtain rings, egg cups, spoons, small rolling pins, coasters, pegs and bowls.
- Metal objects such as spoons, tea strainers, tin lids, small whisks, mirrors, magnets, bells and keys.
- Fabric pieces such as towel, flannel, net, silk, ribbon, woollen cloth, leather, suede and fleece.
- Fragrant items such as small bags of pot pourri, lavender bags, perfumed candles, soaps and citrus fruits such as oranges or lemons.
- Musical instruments such as triangles, shakers, castanets and tambourines.



Who and when do we use Treasure Baskets?

Treasure Baskets are suitable for 'non-mobile' babies therefore at Seedling Nursery we use Treasure Baskets in the Seeds room. It is recommended that Treasure Baskets are introduced to children when they are at their most relaxed and happiest. They require a

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calm atmosphere where they can have time which will not be interrupted; soothing music can also be played to aid the atmosphere. At Seedling Nursery find it best to use Treasure Baskets each day from 4.30pm to 6.00pm.

Why do we use Treasure Baskets?

We use Treasure Baskets at Seedling Nursery as they assist babies in developing a number of skills. Young children enjoy learning and exploring through sensory play. They respond to their surroundings through the senses of touch, smell, taste, hearing, sight and movement. Treasure Baskets provide babies with a wide range of experiences which aid the brain to make connections and develop. Babies learn from Treasure Baskets by looking, touching, sucking, licking, banging, picking up and dropping. It gives babies the opportunity to explore and decide independently whatever they wish to play with. Babies enjoy the situation that these objects provide, for example the textures, weight, temperature and taste of each item. Their attention and concentration expands as they sit next to the basket concentrating on the many items in the basket for prolonged periods of time. Treasure Baskets are a great opportunity for babies to practice and refine their fine motor control and hand eye co-ordination.



How do we use Treasure Baskets?

So that babies can make the most of their Treasure Basket it needs to be placed within easy reaching distance next to the seated baby. The Treasure Basket is be filled with a collection of objects so there is plenty for the baby or babies to choose from. An adult always sits nearby so they are able to observe and supervise. It is not necessary for an adult to intervene unless it is clearly required; in fact adult interference is discouraged. The objectives for Treasure Basket sessions are for the babies to explore the contents of the basket in their own time.