Activity Ideas
Twist and Turn Tubie

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Babies and toddlers will love the Twist and Turn Tubie. Children who enjoy the enveloping schema will delight in posting the balls into the holes and watching as they twist and turn through the tubes. From which hole will they reappear?



Guaranteed to delight, the Twist and Turn Tubie is the perfect way to develop gross motor skills, co-ordination and eye-tracking through play. The Tubie is a wonderful resource for supporting co-operative play and investigative thinking. Simply post the balls into the tubes and watch them disappear and then reappear as they roll their way down. The Twist and Turn Tubie is made from beautiful wood, gentle to touch and a guaranteed favorite for years to come.



Can you guess?

After the initial joy of free play, encourage the children to try to guess which hole the ball will come out of when you post it in the blue hole. Does it come out of the orange, purple or green hole? Is it the same every time? Or does it change? Suggest to the children that they follow the ball's journey through the tubes, watching carefully as it disappears, twists and turns, and then finally reappears.



You can play the guessing game lots of times!

Taking turns

The Twist and Turn Tubie is a wonderful resource for encouraging turn-taking. This is a lovely game for two or three children.

Assign each child a color: blue, red or yellow. To make it simple to start, give them each two balls in their color. When you call out their color, they run to the Twist and Turn Tubie and post their ball, then run back to the starting position. Mix it up, and don't shout the colors in the same order each time.

Make it harder by moving the starting position further away, so they must run further.



Add an element of chance by using a large dice with the three colors on and rolling it to decide whose turn it is. One of the other children could then be the dice thrower.

Make the game last longer by getting the children to pick up their balls each time it's their turn.

It will be a bit chaotic, but a whole lot of fun!

Why does it bounce?

You'll notice that sometimes the balls land inside the tray and stay there, and sometimes they bounce out. This is no accident! One of the holes is much higher than the others and so gives the balls a longer fall and a greater chance of bouncing.

Focus on the balls coming out of the holes and see if the children can notice what happens. Why do some of them bounce further? Can they work it out for themselves?

When the balls do bounce the children have to run around to gather them. This makes for lots of fun, whilst supporting gross motor skills, co-ordination and co-operative play. Why not have a basket for the collected balls to be stored in?



How fast?

Children enjoying the enveloping schema will love simply posting the balls into the holes. So why not make it into a game? There are twelve balls in total so you can share them between one, two or three children. Let each child have a different colored posting hole: blue, red or yellow. Who can post all their balls first? Ready, steady, go!

Play this game lots of times – it's not really about who wins but the fun to be had along the way.

Cooperative play

One of the benefits of the Twist and Turn Tubie is that children will interact with it in different ways as they develop. This makes it the perfect toy for cooperative play across the ages. Toddlers will be happy just posting, whilst preschoolers will enjoy investigating the tubes and collecting the runaway balls.

Get talking – useful words

Guess, disappear, reappear, faster, slower, bounce, lower, higher, colors.

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