Activity Ideas
Rattle Rollers
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Rattle Rollers are perfect for little hands to hold, eyes to watch and ears to hear! This set has three Rattle Rollers, each with a different filling. The fluorescent one is perfect for dark den play as it glows in the dark with a UV torch. The rainbow beads make a gentle rain-like sound as they swish and swoosh. The strong contrast of the black and white beads is perfect for young babies or older children with visual impairment. The Rattle Rollers encourage eye tracking, hand-eye coordination, and both fine and gross motor skill development. Easy to hold, shake and roll!



Is it raining?

Taking some time to explore the difference sounds the Rattle Rollers make. Shake them back and forth to hear the 'ratter-tat-tat' sound. Rock them gentle from side to side to hear the rhythmic wave-like sound. Roll them round and round, and listen to the 'pitter-patter' of the rain.



Tummy time

The huge benefits of tummy time are well known. It strengthens the neck, back and arm muscles that are so essential for what comes next: rolling, sitting and crawling. Rattle Rollers are the perfect toy to keep babies interested and motivated during tummy time. Choose one of the Rattle Rollers (the black and white one has the strongest contrast) and place it just out of reach of baby. Roll it to and fro. Talk about the gentle rain-like sound the beads make. Now allow baby to try and reach for it. Be patient, don't push it towards them too quickly. If baby is content, let them reach.

Next time, try using more than one Rattle Roller, so that baby can choose.

Treasure baskets

Treasure baskets give babies a wonderful sensory experience. This in turn, promotes curiosity, concentration, brain development, independence and fine motor skills. The Rattle Rollers make a wonderful addition to any treasure basket:



Let's explore treasure basket

What you need:

- All three Rattle Rollers
- Little Looking Shapes
- Little Looking Mirrors
- Little Looking Shape Mirrors

Encourage child-led exploration of the objects, stacking, rolling and reflecting (placing each object on a mirror).

Black and white treasure basket

What you need:

- Black and white Rattle Roller
- Black and white fabric pieces
- A panda bear (or other high contrast cuddly character)

Encourage child-led exploration of the textures and sounds of the objects in the basket.





Dark den treasure basket

What you need:

- A dark space
- A small UV torch (for adult use only)
- UV Rattle Roller
- White fabric pieces, black and white patterned fabric, or laminated black and white patterned cards
- Other white objects that will 'glow' under UV light

Encourages awe and wonder when the lights are low, and the objects glow!

Don't forget to seize the chance to use a varied vocabulary to describe the many sensory experiences during Treasure Basket Play Time.

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Time to stack



Toddlers will enjoy the challenge of stacking the Rattle Rollers and making a tower. Use small mirrors, such as the Little Looking Mirrors or Little Looking Shape Mirrors, and encourage the children to place one or more between each Rattle Roller. This is an early opportunity to explore pattern and repetition.

Quietly model the play alongside the children and see where they take it.

Let's rattle and roll

Roll the Rattle Rollers on the floor and see who can send theirs the furthest. Do this lots of times as it is wonderful for gross motor skills, as toddlers run backwards and forwards picking up their Rattle Roller and rolling it again.

Seize the chance to sprinkle into play some mathematical language: longest, shortest, more, less, distance, measure.

Now try rolling the Rattle Rollers down a ramp. Do they go further? Encourage the children to explore the impact of the height of the ramp on the distance the Rattle Roller travels. This is a wonderful early STEM activity that 2–4-year-olds will love!



Turn the lights out!

Using a blanket or large piece of dark fabric, create a cozy dark space within your setting. Just a few soft cushions and you are all set to add a new dimension to sensory play.

Along with other fluorescent resources like the Sight and Sound Drum, the fluorescent Rattle Roller is wonderful to explore in a dark space with a UV torch. Watch as it glows! Look at and talk about the different colors.

Get talking – useful words

Sound, rattle, shake, pitter-patter, noisy, loud, quiet, gentle, calm, roll, more, less, distance, measure, longest, shortest, magical, bright, colorful.

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