



Heuristic Play



The word Heuristic comes from the Greek work "Eurisko", meaning discovery.



Heuristic play is rooted in young children's natural curiosity. Toddlers have an urge to handle things: to gather, fill, dump, stack, knock down, select and manipulate in other ways. Household or kitchen utensils offer this kind of activity. When toddlers make an enjoyable discovery—for instance when one item fits into another, or an interesting sound is produced—they often repeat the action several times.

Heuristic play offers similar experiences to Treasure Baskets, but for children who are mobile.

Heuristic play offers children the opportunity to explore a wide range of natural everyday objects and materials. Heuristic play is a child-initiated, open-ended experience with no right or wrong answers.

What is your child learning?

Develops imagination and creativity
Develops concentration
Promotes the skills of enquiry and exploration
Turn taking and sharing can be developed
Each child can engage at their own level
Develops a child's senses which will stimulate the brain
Promotes self esteem and a sense of achievement
Allows children to make choices

At home...

Collect natural and man-made objects for your child to play with, such as dolly pegs, spoons, saucepans, bags, cotton reels, tubes, boxes etc.

Remember...safety first!
Always supervise your child when playing with these objects and think carefully about the size and shape, and check for wear and damage and make sure they are clean.

