



POWER OF PLAY® ACTIVITY GUIDE



Primary Development

Areas Addressed:

- Sensory-Motor
- Language

Number of Children

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2-3 | 3-5 | 5-10 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Rationale:

Children are attracted to varied surfaces and terrains for exploring, challenging, and developing their physical abilities.

Environmental Set-up:

Place the Snuggle Corner on a soft, carpeted surface or other shock-absorbing surface (e.g. mats) in a corner area free from other furniture or hard objects.

- Providing a safe surrounding allows toddlers the freedom to explore
- Be sure to allow the toddler time for much repetitive play climbing and crawling
Repetition is fundamental to toddler learning!

Objectives:

- Improved postural stability and mobility
- Increased awareness of body and the space it occupies and
- Enhanced language related to body in space

Activity Overview:

Toddlers are naturally attracted to this unique piece of equipment. Provide physical support when needed but respect toddlers' drive for independence. Instead of directing their activity, verbally acknowledge what they are doing as they explore and repetitively experiment with the varied pieces. This empowers them to "take charge" and fosters their language development. For example:

- "WOW! You crawled UP to the top of the mountain."
- "Can you slide down the RED ramp?"
- "Can you scoot down the starry steps?"

Guiding Questions:

- Can you reach the top?
- Can you slide down the mountain?

Implications for Brain Development:

Development of sensory-motor postural control is essential for learning how to intentionally move through space. Intentional and skilled movement through space allows the individual to interact with the environment in support of higher learning. Repetition of movement patterns (pulling, climbing, stepping, walking, jumping, etc.) helps develop postural muscles, balance, and skilled movement. Development of these sensory-motor experiences helps organize and provide "food" for the developing brain, thereby supporting more complex learning.

Developmental Learning Outcomes:

Sensory-Motor/Physical Development:

- Improved walking and running skills through increased development of postural muscles
- Improved spatial awareness of body in space

Cognition Development:

- Development of meaning and ability to initiate movements based on understanding of directional words/terms such as up, down, climb and over

Language Development:

- Development of language descriptive of spatial orientation

Social/Emotional Development:

- Enhanced sense of security in space and gravity, resulting in greater emotional security

Activity Variation:

Soft shapes can be used separately or attached together into many different formations. Individual pieces may be used to create more obstacle courses that challenge the toddler's sense of control over gravity by providing opportunities for crawling, rolling, creeping or walking.

Resources:

We All Live Together (Vol. 2) Greg & Steve | Format: Audio CD for young children