Beehive Lacing Activity with Three Bees

(Small Muscle Development Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
Made from solid rubberwood, this activity includes a beehive and three "bees" (long yellow pegs with three black stripes) on multi-colored strings, with bead stoppers (one blue, one green, one yellow). Various holes run through the chunky wooden beehive block to lace each bee in & out. This activity strengthens fine-motor skills and helps develop sequencing capabilities.	 Purchasing Information

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Are working on using both hands to complete an activity.
- Have a weak or inefficient grasp.
- Are developing the ability to maintain focus on an activity to complete it.
- Need quiet, self-directed activities throughout the day to regroup.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Practice fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.
- Engage in quiet exploration.
- Use one hand to push the bee peg into a hole while stabilizing the beehive with the other hand.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations Stringing beads are the perfect tool for teaching pre-math patterning, color and shape awareness, hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills and creativity. This activity provides an opportunity for self-directed exploration. • Can be used during large group activities, small group activities, and one-on-one instruction. • Can be used at school or home. **Positioning** • This activity can be completed in most any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc. • The beehive can be placed on a flat surface, of held in the child's lap. **Basic Play/Use** • For children who need modeling: o Show them how to hold the bee peg with one hand while manipulating the hive and deciding on a hole to push the bee through. o Once the bee is pushed through the hole, encourage the child to select another hole to push the bee peg into and out the other side. o Repeat with another bee. **Extended Play/Use** • An adult names one of the three colors of yarn attached to the bees. The child locates the named color and laces with the attached bee. • Take pictures of the beads and print them on cards. The child draws a color card, finds the corresponding lace and starts with that bee. **Play/Use with Others** • Children take turns drawing color cards and lacing the bee with the corresponding color.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Duct tape • Wikki Stix • Velcro **Stabilize It** • Velcro the hive onto a flat surface for the child who only uses one hand. **Simplify It** • Introduce only one bee with attached string and stopper at a time. **Contain it** • "Bees" are already somewhat contained by being tethered to string and stopper. **Add Sensory Cues** • Colored duct tape or Wikki Stix placed around beehive holes could provide additional sensory cues and high contrast. **Communication Support** • Provide visual symbols or photos for both communication and modeling purposes. **Alternative Uses** • Push colored plastic straws through beehive holes. **DIY Alternatives** • Thread macaroni or plastic straws onto string or pipe cleaner. • Thread Fruit Loops or Cheerios onto licorice laces. • Thread toilet paper rolls onto craft yarn. If the yarn is too "floppy", reinforce the threading end with masking or duct tape to make it easier to hold and push through the hole. • Thread pool noodle "slices" onto clothesline, rope, ribbon, etc. Cut pool noodles into small pieces (about 1-2 inches) and then thread them as beads. Use a serrated knife or other tools to cut the noodles.

Additional Resources:

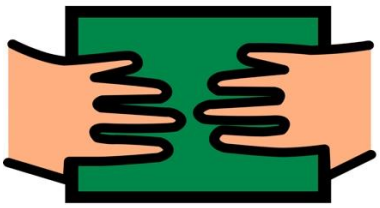
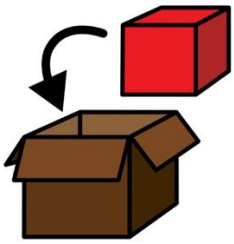
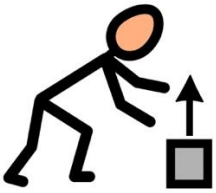
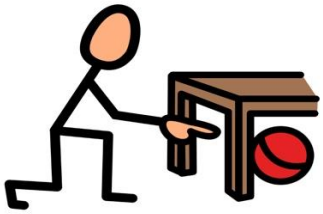
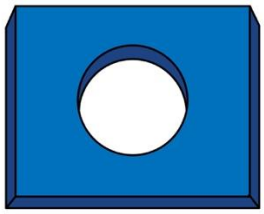
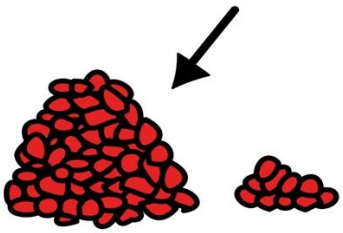
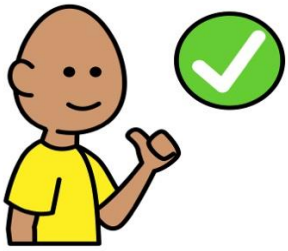
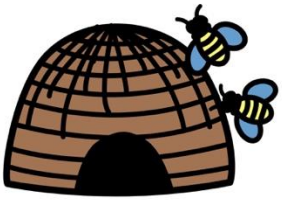
- Benefits of Lacing Cards for Preschoolers

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Persists in completing a task with increasing concentration (1.c.)
- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b).
- CD: Problem-Solving and Reasoning: Uses increasingly complex strategies to solve problems (3.a.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

- Color words corresponding with colors of the yarn/bead stoppers

Hold 	Put in 	Push 
Pull 	Pick up 	Find 
Hole 	Help 	More 
Again 	All done 	Hive 

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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