SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Sensory Textured Colorful Baby Beads

(Small Muscle Development Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
These colorful beads are easy to hold and string. Each bead has a different pattern and texture to touch and explore. Beads measure 1.75". Set of 23 colorful beads includes four 7.5 inch laces.	 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.
- Are learning or need support with self-regulation.
- Need quiet, self-directed activities throughout the day to regroup.

Why Use?

- Provides an opportunity to…
- Engage in sensory play.
- Practice fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.
- Explore opportunities for self-regulation.
- Engage in quiet exploration and self-calming activities.
- Fidget quietly to help maintain their focus.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Stringing beads are the perfect tool for teaching pre-math patterning, color and shape awareness, hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills and creativity. Provide an opportunity for self-directed exploration. **Environmental Considerations** • Can be used during large group activities, small group activities, and one-on-one instruction. • Can be used at school or home.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Duct tape • Wikki Stix **Stabilize It** • Substitute straws for lacing thread. • Place straw in play dough so it stands on one end. Show the child how to "stack" beads on the straw. **Simplify It**

Positioning

- These beads can be used in any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc.

Basic Play/Use

For children who need modeling

- Show them how to hold the string with one hand while picking up a bead with the other.
- Show them how to push the string into the hole in the bead.
- Repeat with another bead.

Extended Play/Use

- Sort beads by color.
- Encourage children to follow a pattern for color identification learning or have them create their own unique patterns.

Play/Use with Others

- Take pictures of the beads and print them on cards. Give a lace to each child. Children take turns drawing cards and placing the corresponding bead on their lace.
- Introduce only a few beads at a time.

Contain it

- Place the beads in a shallow open container to prevent them from rolling out of reach.

Add Sensory Cues

- Use colored nail polish or a piece of Wikki Stix to highlight the hole in the bead.

Alternative Uses

- Press beads into play dough.
- Sort onto pipe cleaners by color.
- Drop beads into a round hole cut into a shoebox or coffee can lid.
- Use beads as counters.
- Create arrays with beads on cardstock.
- Roll dice. Count out same number of beads

DIY Alternatives

- Thread macaroni onto string or pipe cleaner.
- Thread cut up plastic straws onto pipe cleaner.
- Thread Fruit Loops or Cheerios onto licorice laces.
- Thread toilet paper rolls onto craft year.
- 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. To thread pool noodles, cut the pool noodles into small pieces (about 1-2 inches) and then use them as beads to thread. Use a serrated knife or other tools to cut the noodles.

Additional Considerations:

Additional Resources

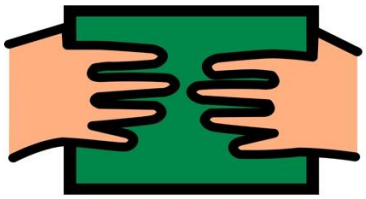
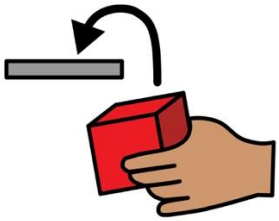
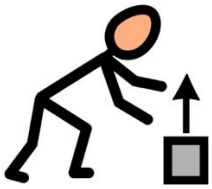
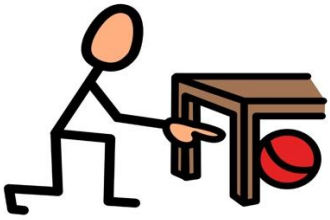
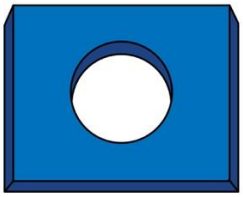
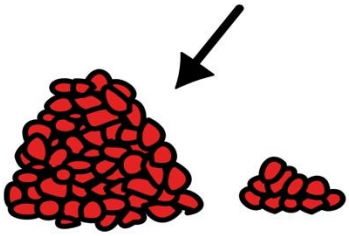
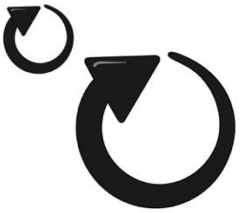
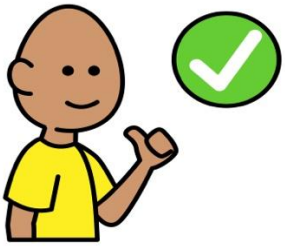
- Stringing beads for children with low vision.

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.)
- M: Measurement: Develops and understanding of patterns (3.c.).
- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b.).
- CD: Problem-Solving and Development: Uses increasingly complex strategies to solve problems (3.a.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

- Consider color words corresponding with colors of the beads.

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

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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