

Surprise Box

Primary Objectives

- 11a. Attends and engages
- 11d. Shows curiosity and motivation

Why It's Important

Children learn to regulate their attention and stay involved in an activity—despite distractions—when they are offered interesting and engaging experiences.

Materials

Decorated shoebox

What You Do

1. Decorate a shoebox with colored paper, glitter, markers, and collage materials. Invite your child to help you decorate it, if you choose.
2. Use the box to present something new to your child. Bring out the box and tell her that you have something special in your surprise box.
3. Describe what is in the box. For example, if you have a feather in the box, say, *It is soft and it came from a bird.* Acknowledge your child's guesses.
4. Ask your child if she wants to feel what is in the box. Open the lid just far enough for your child to reach her hand in and feel the object. Ask her to describe what the object feels like. Acknowledge her responses.
5. Show her what is in the box. Allow her to explore it. Talk about what your child described and guessed in comparison to what the object is. *You told me it was something soft. It is a very soft feather.*
6. Continue exploring and talking about the item for as long as your child is interested. If appropriate, encourage her to use the object in her play.