

Age: 24–36 Months
Motor & Cognitive

Basket of Balls: Controlling Actions and Matching

Instructions:

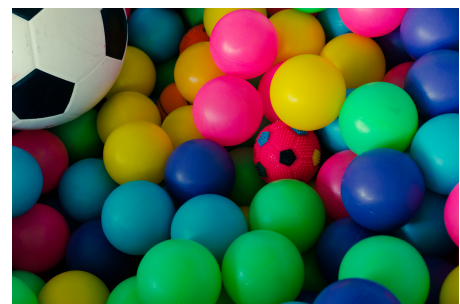
1. Fill the basket with an assortment of balls.
2. Allow your child to explore. Observe how he or she approaches this activity. Does she begin to dump and fill? Does she take a ball and toss or roll it to you? Does she notice that some balls look alike?
3. Play and talk about what you are doing together.
4. Encourage your child to explore matching. Take one ball and say “Look at this yellow fuzzy ball. Is there one like it in the basket? Do any other balls look like each other? Let’s find the matching ones!”
5. Continue to play matching games. Perhaps place one of each look-alike into the basket and hand the other to your child. Ask, “Can you find the match?”

How to extend the activity:

Continue playing this game adding different colors and textures to increase your child’s ability to use cognitive skills and distinguish differences.

Materials:

- Laundry basket
- Balls (big, smooth, with textures, different shapes, matching pairs)
- Homemade sock balls
- Paper
- Balls or stuffed bags



What will your child learn?

Motor Skills: Your child is experimenting with how to use his or her muscles to control the force and movement as she throws, rolls, or bounces the balls.

Cognitive Skills: Your child is experimenting with filling and dumping the laundry basket. First it was full, now it is empty – this is the math concept of quantity. Studying textures, colors, sizes, and shapes helps your child distinguish differences.