

Water Bucket Indoor/Outdoor Relay Game

Learning Objective:

To increase gross motor and hand-eye coordination through water play.

Instructions:

1. Explain the game to your child. Have your child dip their empty cup in the bucket that is filled with water, then have your child walk quickly to the other bucket/pail to pour the water inside their cup into the empty bucket/pail.
2. Have your child continue going back and forth until the empty bucket/pail is filled to the top.
(Never leave child unattended during water play)
3. Make a start/finish line with a scarf, sock or stick.
4. Fill one bucket/pail with water, then place it at the start line. Take an empty bucket/pail and place it a distance away (20 feet) at the finish line.
5. Give your child a small cup and say, "At the count of 3, go".
6. Begin counting.



Materials:

- Pail/bucket
- Small cup
- Water
- Homemade start/finish line (scarf, sock, stick)

Questions:

- Which bucket weighs more, the full bucket/pail or the empty bucket/pail?
- Which holds more water, the cup or the bucket/pail?
- Why does the cup hold less water than the bucket/pail?
- What could we use in the buckets/pails instead of water?

Extension:

- Use a timer to see how fast your child can fill the bucket/pail.
- Explore different modes of traveling to fill the bucket /pail (e.g. running, skipping, hopping).

Why is this activity important?

Increases balancing skills and introduces children to basic math terms e.g. full, empty, more than, less than, which leads to early math skills.