Stanislaus County
Office of
Education

Child/Family Services

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Resource & Referral Handout

Infant and Toddler Curriculum Materials You Create

Pyramid of tubes

1. Obtain tubes from a newspaper company (the kind made of heavy cardboard that newsprint comes on).

2. Paint tubes with a non-toxic spray paint.

3. Glue the tubes together in a pyramid shape.

4. Set the pyramid of tubes out on the floor with a basket of tennis balls and ping-pong balls.

5. To vary the learning experience and provide a little "cognitive dissonance," position the pyramid with the openings of the tubes perpendicular to the floor. Then drop balls and other interesting items into the holes so that the babies can remove them by simply reaching into the openings and pulling up. Drop in other objects that will get stuck. This adds challenge and additional concrete data about how physical environments work.

6. When you have set up the pyramid in the manner just described, resist the urge to show the babies how much fun it is to pick it up and make the balls go rolling in every direction. They'll discover this (and so many other things) by accident, and it will be all the more exciting for them.

Carpeted squares

1. Build a sturdy frame of 1x2 lumber and cover it with ¼ inch or ½ inch plywood, leaving one side open. Cut openings for hand holds in all sides. (Masonite is more lightweight but not as strong. It could be used successfully if additional ribs were inserted in the frame.)

2. Cover the square (or rectangle) with carpet remnants, using a staple gun and glue. The staples must be securely in place to avoid the possibility of being picked out by tiny fingers and swallowed.

Family Child Care at Its Best
Building Blocks of Learning