

The New York Public Library

A Day of Play

Discovery Bottles

Discovery bottles are a simple and homemade way for babies and young children to explore new colors, textures, and effects. If you have older children, enlist their help in creating the bottle!

MATERIALS:

- Empty plastic bottles. Wide neck bottles are best.
- Colorful and textured items: Pom Poms, beads, beans, rice, pasta, confetti, etc.
- Duct tape
- Water & food coloring (optional)

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill the bottle with a variety of items. Try to include different shapes, colors, textures--items that make a sound when shaken, and items that do not.

Add water and food coloring for more visual interest OR leave the bottle dry to explore sound. Screw the lid on tight and secure with duct tape.

Encourage your baby to play by turning them upside down, shaking it up, and seeing what happens!

Safety tip: Make sure to always supervise when playing! Any small item could be a choking hazard, so remember to never let a small child play unattended with the discovery bottle.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- Talk about the colors or objects inside the bottles. Pay special attention to what your child look at: "What do you see? I see blue beads!"
- Bottles with noise making objects can be used as shakers - shake the different bottles. "Does this one make a sound? Yes, it rattles!"

