

Finding Treasure

Dig up your children's inner explorer with this investigative activity which promotes language development and motor skills.

Learning aims

- Develop language skills
- Develop fine and gross motor skills
- Support children's imagination
- Support children's understanding of colour, shape, patterns and textures.



Resources

- A sand tray or sand pit
- Shells, buttons, jewels, dinosaurs or other “treasure”
- Spades, rakes, brushes and buckets.

Activity Outline

- Hide the “treasures” in the sand. Try and hide them completely as this will support the children to dig and explore further
- Sit with the children playing in the sand tray and “discover” a treasure!
- Ask the children if they can find any hidden treasure
 - What have they found?
 - Who do they think could have hidden it here?
- Use the buckets to store the treasure
- While the children are pulling out the treasures talk about the different characteristics of each piece. This will help children to develop their language. You could discuss the:
 - Patterns on the shell
 - Size of the button
 - Colour of the jewel
 - Type of dinosaur.

If you wish to develop their motor skills further, you could use brushes to brush the sand as this will require a different movement with their fingers, hand and wrist. Play alongside the children and act as a role model for physical and language development as well as engaging and motivating the children to continue with the activity.

Extension activity

Why not create a treasure map for their friends to use to find the hidden treasure?

This can be drawn by the children or you could take photos of specific areas of the outdoors, print them out and place them on the map in the right area. This supports not only their IT development but also their spatial awareness.