

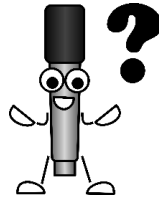
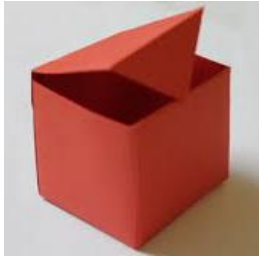
SURPRISE BOX



What is in your box?

THINK ABOUT . . .

It is important for your child to hear new words and to have language modeled throughout the day. It is also important for your child to have many opportunities to say a variety of words and to use critical thinking skills to develop descriptive language. In this activity, you will model descriptive language for your child and enjoy the interaction of hearing what your child comes up with to describe words and items back to you.



ACTIVITY

- 1- Explain to your child that you are going to go on a treasure hunt to build some surprise boxes. Have your child pick which box he or she would like to fill.
- 2- Once boxes have been assigned, separate and fill your box with 5-6 mystery items from around the house that your child will have to guess. Have your child do the same. You can set a timer and meet back in your central location in 5 minutes.
- 3- Once your time is up or when the box is full, return to your starting point.
- 4- Explain that you are going to describe one of the items in your box and your child must guess what it is. Use lots of descriptive words but do not show the item to your child. For example, if you were to describe a stuffed animal, it may sound something like this: "This mystery item is a little bit bigger than a drinking cup. It's soft and yellow and makes almost no noise when you drop it. You love to sleep with this at night and it always stays right by your pillow. It starts with a D."
- 5- Give as many hints as your child needs to guess. Then switch turns. If your child is having trouble coming up with ideas of how to describe the items, as a few simple questions like, "What does it sound like?" or "What is it used for?"
- 6- You can also involve other members of the family and divide into teams. This can provide your child with help coming up with clues without revealing the item to you.
- 7- Keep going back and forth until all the items have been described. Remember, have fun!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Two boxes with lids
- Various items from around the house
- Timer (optional)

PREPARATION

- 1- Set out the two decorated boxes with lids on a table where your child can easily see and reach them

VOCABULARY:

- Big
- Small
- Colorful
- Hard
- Soft
- Bumpy
- Loud
- Quiet

Can also give clues to describe:

- Item function
- Beginning sound
- Rhyming words

HELPFUL TIPS

- Be creative with what you pick. You can pick silly items or hard to guess items. Include a variety of items so your child stays engaged and interested in what's in the box. You might also consider having the last item in your box be a special treat or snack that you and your child can share together.

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